

Sketch

Time the tiniest pub called time



David Pallister

I used to be the pub with no name. Back in the 18th century it was just a tiny ale house for local farm labourers. Then along came the second Earl Grey...

champagne," she said yesterday, still revealing a trace of her French accent. "But that made us miss the Lancastria to take us across the Channel. It was just as well. The Germans dropped a bomb down its funnel and it went down."

Another British ship eventually picked up the family, together with a drunken Scotsman and two RAF pilots who had bailed out, and after a detour round north Africa, they disembarked at Liverpool.

As if that wasn't enough, after settling in Cardiff and then Bristol, the family were bombed out of both of their homes.

Lucie became a publican almost by chance. She was chairwoman of the Conservative Association in Bristol North West when she had to sack the club steward. "I took on the job myself and thought I could make a living out of this. First there was a pub just south of Gloucester, then a small hotel in Torquay for a couple of years.

While she was on a visit to see one of her three sons in Dallas, Texas, 10 years ago, another son rang up to say he had found the perfect place — a snip at £75,000. She went to see it the moment the plane touched down at Heathrow. It had been closed for a few years, with a succession of landlords unable to make it pay.

But with a private income from her husband's business, Lucie persevered. And if the oak-beamed bar room, festooned with brasses, gets a wee bit crowded, customers can use her front room next door where the juke box has not had a change of records for a decade. She's keen on Abba, but her favourite is Nilsson's Without You.

Having already lost the school and the shop, the 600 villagers of Quenington still have another pub. The Keeper's Arms, a stagger away from the Earl Grey. Tom Porter, the landlord, said: "She's a star. It will be the end of an institution."

Yesterday Quenington's village green was bathed in hazy sunshine and silence. The Wadsworth 6X from Lucie's two steel casks behind the bar was suitably warm. A couple of regulars passed by. It was a scene that would have brought a tear to John Major's eye.

Edinburgh review

Whisper of death, rivers of turps

Adrian Searle

Callum Innes Inverleith House PAINT bleeds, it spurts and runs. Paint can be like flesh, like light, like breath on a mirror. Colour can sing and mean, colour can blind. Who says painting isn't sexy?

Callum Innes, the Edinburgh born painter shortlisted for last year's Turner Prize, is currently showing a succinct survey of work at Inverleith House in the Royal Botanic Gardens.

With its well-proportioned, light-filled rooms and its calming views, this is an ideal venue for Innes, an abstractionist whose qualities are best revealed away from the hysteria and crowds of the hyper-up, media-friendly competition show.

Innes's works, slow meditations both on the physical processes of painting and on the transient, ephemeral effects of atmosphere and light, not only become meaningless when reduced to pan-and-scan optical soundbites for TV, but they apparently lack the frisson of sex and death which undoubtedly helped Damien Hirst win the Turner.

Which is not to say that Innes's work lacks punch, or that it cannot deal with intimations of mortality.

But it comes over as more a whisper than a scream. And before this starts sounding overly romantic and soppy, it is worth pointing out that Innes's paintings are tough-minded and astringent works, produced by the most calculated and extreme means. He never lets you forget that a

painting is a very peculiar kind of object, and that as much as painting is concerned with illusion and effect, it is the product of physical processes and materials.

Innes's work demystifies the craft of painting. The claims made for Innes as a kind of closest landscape artist make me uneasy, although the way his work is made — the erosion of colour by rivers of turps, the sediment of pigment rained down on to bare canvases washed away penumbrae of colour and lagoons of resinous shellac — undoubtedly refer to weather and geology.

But this, finally, is a classical show of late 20th century abstraction, a lesson in how to hang an exhibition, and in the kinds of dialogues that paintings set up, both amongst themselves and in relation to the architecture and the viewer.

Innes's paintings are more about interval and proportion, of colour against the absence of colour, density and coagulation against weightlessness and dispersion, as they are about vaporous light, or dumb evocations of Scottish mist.

Painfully intense synthetic colour burns against silence, rubbed-out, empty canvases breathe against opaque rectangles, geometry contests randomness.

This is the real thing, and a perfect antidote to the madness on the Royal Mile and Peruvian pan-pipers on the Mound.

Callum Innes at Inverleith House, Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, until October 6. Daily 10-5 (0131 552 7171)

Washington fights for share of market which has plummeted to a quarter of its peak eight years ago

Russian arms sales beat US

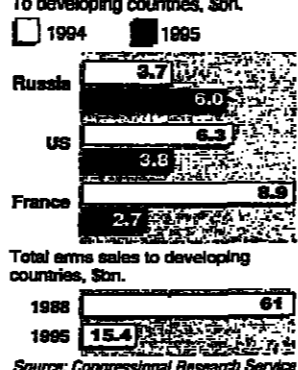
Martin Walker in Washington

RUSSIA has overtaken the United States as the leading arms seller to the developing world, and now has 40 per cent of the much shrunken international arms market, according to a report published by the Congressional Research Service yesterday.

Russian arms sales rose by 62 per cent last year, to \$6 billion (\$3.87 billion). Two thirds of this came from the sale of Sukhoi fighter bombers to China, and a lesser sale of the same aircraft to Vietnam. The deals were big enough to send Russia to the top of the league in a generally flat year on the international arms market.

The report defined the developing world as all nations

Arms sales



sales to the developing world were the US at \$3.8 billion, France at \$2.4 billion, Italy at \$800 million and Britain at \$800 million.

The decline in the Middle East arms market has hurt British exports. Although Britain was second last year

except the US, Russia, Western Europe, Canada, Japan, Australia and New Zealand. The developing nations, it said, accounted for slightly more than half of arms purchases worldwide last year.

The arms trade has declined five years in a row, to a total \$15.4 billion last year, down from the 1988 peak of \$81 billion. The Gulf war's boost to the market for high-tech US weaponry has dissipated — US arms sales fell from \$6.3 billion in 1994 to last year's \$3.8 billion.

Like most other sellers to the Middle East, Russia also saw a collapse of its lucrative market in Iran. Russia sold Iran \$3.5 billion of arms between 1988-91, and has sold it only \$200 million since.

The decline in the Middle East arms market has hurt British exports. Although Britain was second last year

in deliveries of weapons, selling \$4.5 billion, the cutbacks in Saudi and Gulf orders helped Britain drop to fifth in the world rankings for new orders last year.

The US is seeking new markets, and the Clinton administration is proposing to lift restrictions on arms sales to Latin America, long constrained to prevent any regional arms race.

"I expect the arms industry and the Pentagon to use this report to say America is falling behind, and we have to have a level playing field, and let's start with Latin America," Dr William Hartung, senior fellow at the World Policy Institute in New York, said yesterday.

"It's absurd, and dangerous. We ought to be celebrating that the arms market is in decline. But these are very

useful statistics for US industry, even though the reality is that Russia is not surging ahead and capturing our markets. This is a one-year anomaly."

The figures in the CRS report also may underestimate the real scale of US sales, because since 1990 so much US equipment has been sold at big discounts. In that period, the US transferred 3,900 tanks and 500 combat aircraft to a range of countries. Greece and Turkey received the lion's share of the equipment from US Nato stocks, which had to be reduced under the 1990 conventional arms reduction treaty.

The US response to the declining market has already begun, with a \$15 billion military export financing programme authorised by Congress last year. Paul Hoyer, under-secretary of defence for international and commercial programmes, has already listed 37 nations which qualify for the US subsidies, including China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Chile and Mexico.

China's rearmament is expected to fuel new markets among its nervous neighbours, although China too is now creeping into the list of arms export leaders with its sales of Silkworm missiles to Iran, and other exports to Pakistan and North Korea.

The desperation of US arms exporters is producing some bizarre deals. McDonnell-Douglas accepted part of Thailand's \$580 million payment for eight F-16 fighters in the form of frozen chickens.

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Conventional arms transfers to developing nations, 1988-95, by Richard Grimmett, Congressional Research Service, Washington DC.

Alan Bond jailed on art fraud charges

Health plea ignored as example is made of former Australian of the year who abused his power

Christopher Zinn in Sydney

ALAN BOND, the penniless British-born beer baron and multimillionaire, was jailed for three years yesterday for an intricate fraud involving a French impressionist masterpiece.

Plans for leniency were ignored, including claims that Bond, aged 58, who was once named Australian of the year, was sick and could die in jail.

Passing sentence, Perth District Court Judge Antonette Kennedy said that despite defence claims that Bond was a national hero and should not be made a scapegoat for the excesses of the '80s, prison was the only option.

She told Bond that while some would regard the jail term as lenient, "any prison sentence is a life sentence for someone in your position, in that you cannot sink into anonymity."

Last Friday a jury found Bond guilty on four counts of fraud relating to the millions his family company, Dalhold Investments, made on transactions involving Edouard Manet's La Promenade, which was sold in a year later for \$8 million.

As Bond was led away his lawyers said he had a stiff upper lip. But defence QC Julian Burnside said: "We are convinced that a term in prison may kill Mr Bond or substantially injure his health."

Prosecutor Brian Martin QC argued that if Bond — who has high blood pressure and has been fined if he would create the impression that "if you are big enough, you can get away with it."

Bond will serve at least 12 months; the defence team said he would appeal.

That tactic worked in 1992 when Bond, who gave his name to Australia's first private university, was released from a prison farm after serving three months. His dis-

esty convictions involving the bungled rescue of a merchant bank were later quashed on appeal.

This is the latest, but not the last, courtroom chapter in the rags-to-riches and back again saga of "Bondie", who won Australia's America's Cup yachting trophy in 1983. At one stage his art collection included 300 old masters and impressionist paintings, and in 1987 he stannard the art world by buying Van Gogh's Irises for \$32 million. Much of his collection was sold off in 1992 after his first fall from grace.

The money Bond made on La Promenade was at the expense of shareholders in Bond Corp, which went bust in 1991. A string of charges followed, and after a long round of hearings, Bond was declared bankrupt, underwent open-heart surgery and remarried.

The most serious charges against Bond have still to be heard. Later this year, he faces a huge compensation claim from the liquidators of Bond Corp; more criminal charges are to be heard in April 1997.

The former high-flier's unauthorised biographer, Paul Barry, said the most recent conviction was small beer compared to asset-stripping charges he still faces.

"The main thing has still to come to trial and that involves more than A\$1,000 million (\$500 million) which was lifted from a company called Bell Resources and basically spent by the Bond group of companies," he said.

Bond's wife Diana Bliss, the only member of his immediate family at court, said afterwards: "I'm upset that Alan has to go to prison, as I'm sure a lot of Australians are."

"However, we are grateful for judge Kennedy's comments about the family and Alan's contribution to the community."

The judge had said that although Bond had many strong qualities, and was admired by many Australians, he had brought his misfortunes on himself.

That tactic worked in the handling of the La Promenade matter. Bond had failed to avoid a conflict of interest and look after the best interests of his company.



Alan Bond, rags-to-riches and back again mogul, at the Perth court which jailed him

Wizards of Oz

Australians who built business empires

Rupert Murdoch, media magnate

Aged 65. Media empire includes four British newspapers, New York Post, 40 per cent of BSkyB, Star satellite TV, HarperCollins publishers and half the papers sold in Australia each day. Became American citizen to get round US media ownership laws. No known interests apart from businesses and family.

Kerry Packer: split world of cricket

Aged 58. Empire, inherited from father, takes in television, magazines and investment. Believed to be worth more than £1 billion. Known for splitting cricket world with rival tournament in the 1970s. Had heart attack in 1990. Handed control in March of main company, Publishing & Broadcasting Ltd, to son James.

John Elliott: brewing empire

Aged 54. Empire was based on brewing, his Elders IXL (Foster's Lager) company taking over Britain's Courage brewery. A former president of Australian Liberal Party. Was cleared this month of spying false evidence by a Melbourne court. Still faces charges of stealing \$32.7 million and conspiracy to defraud.

Art to oil: Robert Holmes a Court

Empire stretched from holding in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group to ranching, fine art, newspapers and oil. Owned much of London's West End. Died aged 53 in 1980. In 1980s, fortune estimated at £1 billion. Despite losses in 1987 crash, he is believed to have left £100 million. Wife Janet took over empire.

Ethics row erupts as Tories give life peerages to image men in negative campaigning

continued from page 1 a Tory donor, though his wider charities cost him £500,000 a year. He once gave £1 million to help save London Zoo.

But his nomination, like that of Sir Ian MacLaurin, chairman of the Tesco supermarket group and an enthusiastic Tory donor, attracted only modest interest compared with outrage over the Satchi-Gummer awards.

"It's the crassest, crudest, most maladroit move I have seen in a long time," said one senior Labour MP.

Mr Satchi is blamed for the focus on Labour and Mr Blair's untrustworthiness which culminated in rapid withdrawal of the "demonic eyes" poster attack on the Labour leader this month, amid criticism from bishops and others.

Mr Dobson said last night: "They've already admitted that it's a lie to portray Tony

Blair as the devil incarnate. They've already admitted their objective was to make that image of him the principal image of the general election campaign. They are proud to peddle lies. This announcement confirms that John Major has given his personal seal of approval for the most negative election campaign ever."

But one Satchi loyalist said: "No wonder they hate Maurice, he helped keep them out of office for 20 years."

Mr Gummer is targeted as an even more shadowy figure behind efforts to trumpet revived economic success with such devices as the industry-backed brochure called "The World thinks Britain's Great" which had a party political favour.

He is also seen as working to discredit such Labour plans as the windfall tax. Blairite support for the social chapter, and the minimum

wage are also being used to undermine growing business support for a change of government.

The new peers are: Baroness — Joyce Anley, former chairman of the Conservative Women's National Committee (Con); Hazel Byrd, President of the National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations (Con); Mita Ramsey, former diplomat, now an international affairs consultant and foreign policy adviser to the Leader of the Opposition (Lab); Elizabeth Symons, General Secretary of the Association of Fine Dining Civil servants and an Equal Opportunities Commissioner (Lab).

Baroness — Peter Gummer, Chairman of the Welsh Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem).

Shandwick plc and the chairman designate of the Royal Opera House (Con); Sir Ian MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco plc (Con); Maurice Satchi, chairman of the oil & gas Satchi Agency (Lab); John Taylor, barrister, writer and television presenter (Con); David Currie, Professor of Economics and former principal of the London Business School (Lab); Swraj Paul, chairman of Caparo Group Ltd and leading Asian businessman (Lab); Sir Richard Rogers, architect and vice-chairman of the Arts Council (Lab); John (Larry) Whitty, former general secretary of the Labour Party and now its European co-ordinator (Lab); John Alderton, Leader of the Alliance Party of Northern Ireland (Lib Dem); Martin Thomas, GC, a Recorder of the Crown Court and President of the Welsh Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem).

Tussaud's bid for Stonehenge 21st century tourism contract

James Melville

THE FIRM that runs Madame Tussauds waxworks and the Alton Towers theme park is among four heritage companies competing to take the "Stonehenge experience" into the 21st century.

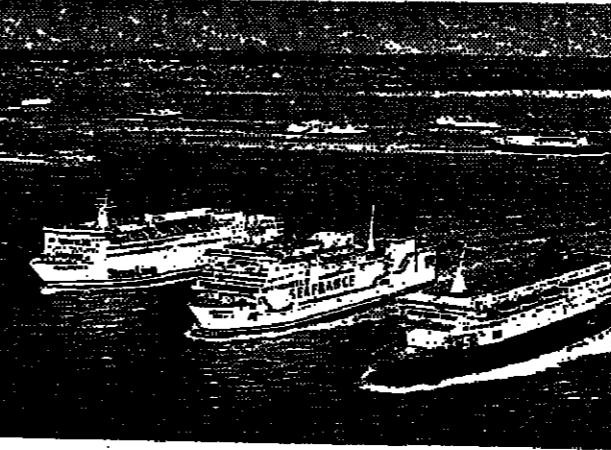
The four have been shortlisted for the contract to design, build, finance and oper-

ate a centre to cope with an expected doubling of the 708,000 visitors each year to the 5,000-year-old monument, as English Heritage, the quango responsible for the world heritage site, seeks to protect the ancient stones and improve access. The present visitor's centre, from which people must walk by underpass to the stones, is considered a national disgrace.

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Handwritten Arabic text

Parting can be such sweet sorrow - but some manage to jump before they get pushed

Some of those who reached the top of their professions and had the wit to quit while they were ahead:



Ronnie Barker... went off to run an antique shop in 1987 at the age of 59 after decades of successful gags.



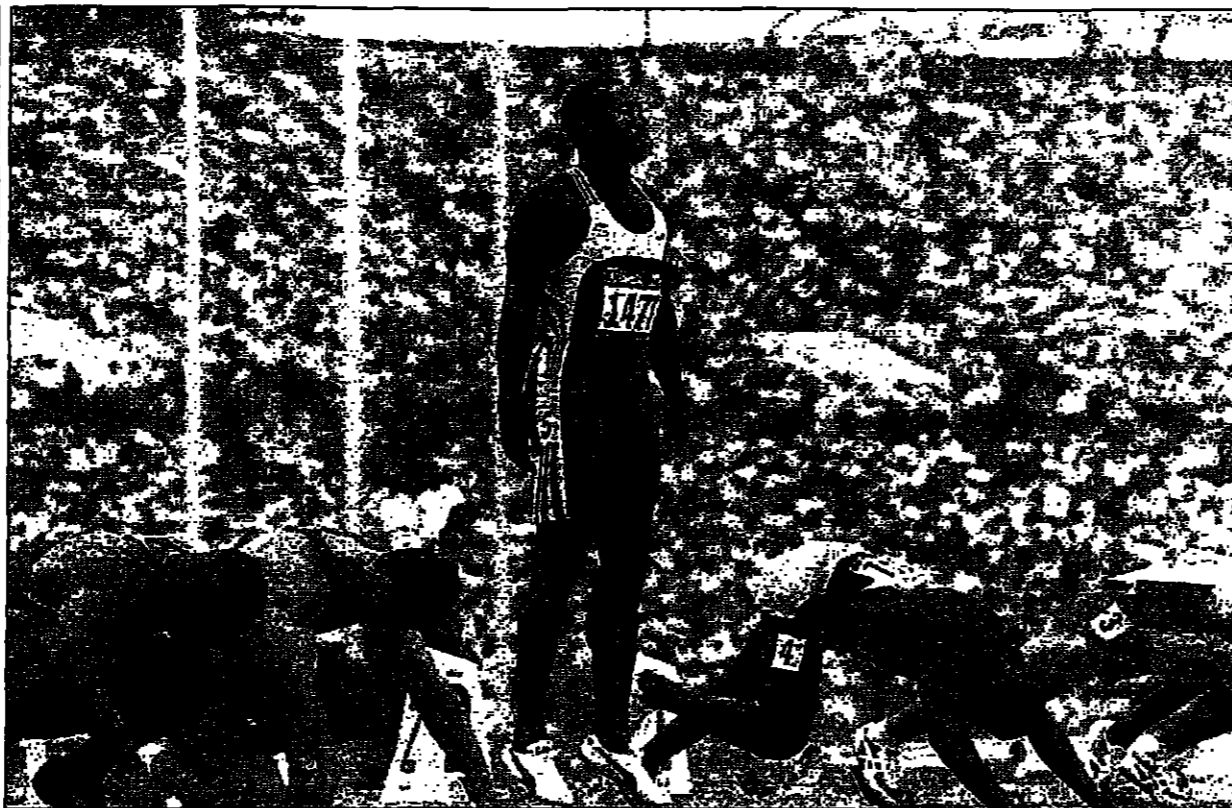
Lord Wilson... won four elections out of five for Labour but resigned out of blue in March 1976.



Gary Lineker... left Spurs for money and obscurity in Japan; got a toe injury and retired to be a commentator.



Greta Garbo... bowed out in 1941, became a legend and lived in seclusion. Died aged 84 in 1990.



Linford Christie, at a 100m heat in Atlanta, is bent on one last go before he hangs up his spikes. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL STEELE

Christie's final false start

Britain's sprint ace is to give it one more go before hanging up his spikes. John Duncan on the art of knowing when to quit

SIT us or is it them? We wanted to remember Linford Christie as the bulging-eyed Olympic champion of Barcelona but he just had to have another crack in Atlanta. OK, we thought, never mind the starting pistol, let's wave goodbye at Gateshead. But no, now he is going to have one last go in Germany. Just one more, you understand, just one more. The toughest thing about being at the top, it seems, is knowing when to call it a day.

Of course Christie, who claims he is doing his German doctor a longstanding favour, is not the first. Frank Bruno wiped off the deft greasement in his 30s before wiping the smile off Oliver McCall's face for a world title and then freezing in front of Mike Tyson. Lester Piggott should not have saddled up after his last classic win on Rodrigo de Triano in 1992, but drifted unhearingly for another two years winning very little. Why?

"The operative word here is compulsion," said Christie's coach, a director of Sporting Bodymind, a sports psychology company which for 17 years has advised sportsmen, including British Olympians and football teams, on the mental requirements of the game. "To perform at an elite level you have to have forces in you that are not normal, beyond normal drives and motivations, a compulsion to keep going despite the disruptions and pains of training and competing, and that isn't easy to just switch off."

And while he is enjoying it and is fast enough, why should he? Some manage it. Gary Lineker's career remains a golden wonder thanks to him being ditched by Graham Taylor for England, dumping Spurs for Japan and then getting injured. Greta Garbo wanted to be alone and got her way as soon as possible. Ronnie Barker leaped off sitcom's slippery slope to run a small shop. And Harold Wilson secured his name in history by dropping Jim Callaghan right in it at No. 10.

Others like Ivan Lendl pack in one game - tennis - and move on to another - golf - almost as if competition in some form is an addiction. Black himself kept going despite a series of injuries and illnesses that had many assuming he would retire. "I had glandular fever in '83 and I could have stopped then," said Black. "I had told myself at that point that I could stop whenever I wanted, but I had to admit then that athletics mattered more to me than I had let on and that my happiness depended on it."

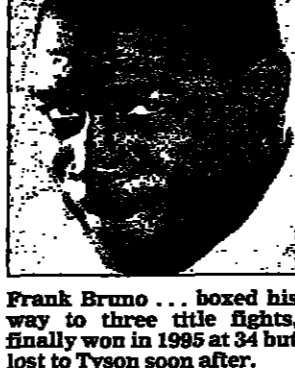
Nor is it an affliction only of sport. Margaret Thatcher was not for turning until her party turned on her. Bob Dylan has not realised that times have already changed as far as he is concerned, and Tony Curtis should have just snogged Marilyn Monroe and walked away.

Christie's love of athletics is so strong and his talent is so high that he was always going to find it hard to stop. And while he is enjoying it and is fast enough, why should he? Some manage it. Gary Lineker's career remains a golden wonder thanks to him being ditched by Graham Taylor for England, dumping Spurs for Japan and then getting injured. Greta Garbo wanted to be alone and got her way as soon as possible. Ronnie Barker leaped off sitcom's slippery slope to run a small shop. And Harold Wilson secured his name in history by dropping Jim Callaghan right in it at No. 10.

Some of those who thought they could go on forever, and did not heed the voices telling them to go:



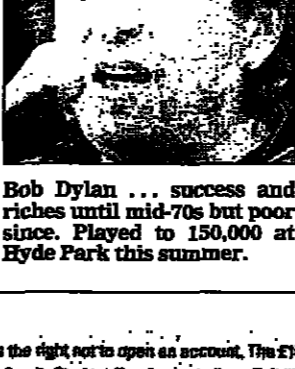
Lester Piggott... Came back at 55, but retired again in 1995, after year without a winner.



Frank Bruno... boxed his way to three title fights, finally won in 1995 at 34 but lost to Tyson soon after.



Lady Thatcher... tried to take '80s values into '90s and failed. Party lost nerve in 1990 and forced her out.



Bob Dylan... success and riches until mid-70s but poor since. Played to 150,000 at Hyde Park this summer.

Children 'left to fight birds for crumbs'

Owen Bowcott

THREE brothers and their sister, all aged under four, were in foster care last night after one was found eating stale bread left out for the birds.

Neighbours in the Ardoyne, north Belfast, alerted police when it was claimed that the children's 22-year-old mother had abandoned them overnight in the company of four drunken youths, to travel to a seaside party 30 miles away.

RUC officers and social workers who took the children into care were forced to mask their faces as they searched through scenes of squalor in the terrace house. Milk bottles filled with urine were standing in bedrooms while the younger children's nappies had not been changed. One boy was covered in lice and the mattress in a cot was soaking.

Lindsay Conway, chairman of the Northern Ireland branch of the British Association of Social Workers, described the conditions as horrendous.

But the mother said last night she was the victim of a smear campaign and was out shopping rather than at a party when the children - the youngest 10 months old - were taken into care. "Somebody wrecked the house before the cameramen went in to take pictures of it. Somebody took the curtains down. It was spotless when I left it."

"I went to get my [shopping] and when I came back the kids were away." Neighbours said they had been concerned for some time about the conditions in which the children were living and the noisy drinking parties at the house. Local families had given the children food whenever possible.

None of the youths with whom the mother left the children was a relative. Early the next day, the oldest boy, evidently famished, climbed out of a sitting-room window and began to scour streets and gardens for something to eat.

"He was off to pick up the bread that was left for the birds," a neighbour said. "He was seen going through bins looking for food. People saw him eating the scraps of leftovers from takeaways thrown away the night before."

After being collected by the police, the children were fed and washed by a neighbour, who said: "The baby boy drank five bottles of milk. The conditions they were being kept in were filthy. Nobody could live there."

Bobby Lavery, a Sinn Fein councillor, said there was widespread anger at the way the case had been handled. "The entire neighbourhood is up in arms. The establishment must carry some of the blame. I'm not trying to absolve this woman from blame, but she clearly needs as much help as the children do."

"The cuts in social benefits and welfare in an area where there is 70 per cent unemployment are disgraceful. The authorities had been to this house before."

A neighbour said: "The welfare is awful. People can't believe something like this could happen, practically on their own doorstep. They were asked twice to do something, but what happened? Nothing."

North and West Belfast Health and Social Services Trust said the family was known to staff. Out-of-hours social work services had responded promptly and arranged to have the children taken into care.

"When we knew the situation had deteriorated so badly we acted immediately," a spokeswoman said. "The children are in care and safe."

"Social workers cannot be there 24 hours a day. Cases of neglect can be harder for professionals. There are no obvious signs of sexual or physical abuse and the situation can deteriorate very rapidly."

The law requires that parents are given support in bringing up their children, the spokeswoman added. Taking children into care and removing them from their family should occur only when there was no other option. An internal examination of the cases was under way.

"I will get them back," the mother said last night. "Their father left me for another woman and I am finding it very, very hard to cope with them. But I'm getting by, or I was getting by until all this happened."

BSkyB and BT seek digital link as TV profits surge by £100m

Roger Cowe

BRITISH Telecom is negotiating a partnership with satellite broadcaster BSkyB which would help both sides fight off growing competition from cable suppliers.

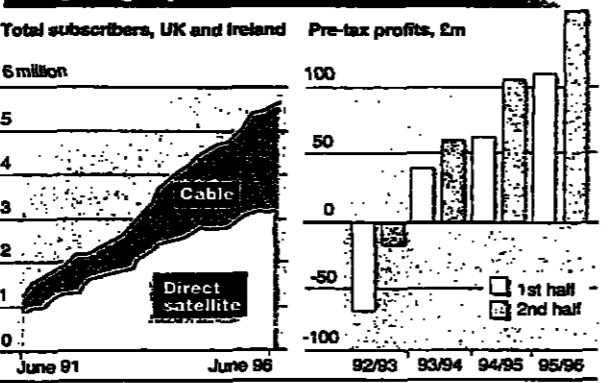
The negotiations were confirmed yesterday by BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, as it revealed a £100 million jump in profits to £257 million. The surge followed sustained growth in Sky subscriptions, which pushed annual sales past £1 billion for the first time.

Yesterday neither side would reveal details of their discussions, which are aimed at capitalising on the launch of digital television towards the end of next year. But BT is expected to make an announcement about its digital strategy next month.

BSkyB's chief executive, Sam Chisholm, said a link with BT to provide telephone and interactive services was "one of the imponderables" which the company had to face in gearing up for digital services.

Confirming that talks were taking place, a BT spokesman said: "We are looking at all developments in digital." BT is working with the BBC on a trial of terrestrial digital broadcasting, and has conducted its own video-on-

Sky high performance



Despite plans to introduce the higher quality digital service next year, Sky's existing service continues to expand. Subscriptions grew by almost a fifth last year to 8.5 million, pushing up BSkyB sales by 30 per cent to £1,008 million.

But cable subscribers, who are less profitable, continue to grow faster than satellite viewers. Dish sales since Christmas have been lower than in the past two years, while sales to cable customers grew last year by almost two thirds to £121 million, overtaking advertising revenue.

Growth in profits was helped by lower interest costs following the share issue in 1994, while the tax bill remains negligible. Finance director Richard Brooke said the company had previously underestimated the scale of tax losses available, and did not now expect to pay tax until 1997/98.

BSkyB continues to add channels and will be providing more than 40 by the end of the year. Included in 11 new services this autumn will be a weather channel, the Warner Channel and seven launched jointly with Granada TV.

BSkyB confirmed yesterday that it is still negotiating a 49 per cent stake in Germany's first digital TV service, DF1, which was launched last month, and that it still expects to take a stake in the Premiere German pay TV service.

More than a month after the TWA Boeing 747 dropped out of the sky, one disconcerting fact is emerging from the white noise of salvage news and speculation: investigators are not much closer to establishing the cause of the disaster.

Ian Katz C2 cover story

Advertisement for Midland Bank featuring a woman and the text: 'This is Sam. Sam's just got £40 by opening a Midland student account (which she'll definitely spend on a pair of Converse trainers). She's also got a BT Chargecard with £10 worth of free calls (which she might use to call her boyfriend Tony in Leeds - then again she might not). She could have called 0800 180 180 or applied for an account at her local Midland. MIDLAND The Listening Bank Member HSBC Group For a copy of the Midland Student brochure, post the coupon to Midland Bank plc, Dept. 40603, P.O. Box 757, FREEPOST, ...'

News in brief

Teacher jailed for fondling girls

A TEACHER accused of sexually assaulting four of his female pupils in their classrooms was found guilty yesterday and sentenced to 12 months in prison. Christopher Keeton, aged 32, former head of chemistry at North Chadderton high school, Oldham, Lancashire, was convicted of seven indecent assaults on four girls. The court heard he had groped and fondled the pupils even after receiving a severe reprimand for an incident in 1992 when he had kissed one of them on the lips. Keeton was unanimously convicted of indecently assaulting this girl, and the jury returned majority verdicts on six further charges. One of the girls wept as she described how Keeton had called her sexy and gorgeous, persistently touching her breasts and bottom when she was 17. She finally reported him after he grabbed her breasts in a science preparation room. Keeton had claimed to be the victim of a whispering campaign after the first incident. — Lucy Manning

Death coach charges

THE coach driver involved in a crash in Wales in which 10 people died last year is to be charged with 10 counts of causing death by dangerous driving, the Crown Prosecution Service said yesterday. The operator faces four charges. The coach, carrying people from a day care centre in St David's, Dyfed, on a day trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, overturned on the A40 at Raglan, Gwent, on July 5. Philip William Crisp, the driver, also faces other charges. The operator, Ronald Lewis, faces four charges, including causing a vehicle to be used with defective brakes and with a defective speed limiter, the CPS said. Crisp is also charged with careless driving, using a vehicle with defective brakes, using a vehicle with a defective speed limiter and two tachograph offences. Both men are to appear at Abergavenny magistrates court, Gwent, on September 25.

Police seize cannons

POLICE are investigating the salvaging of two 17th century Dutch cannons which were discovered hidden in a house in Beadnell, Northumberland. They were called in to investigate the circumstances in which the cannons — taken from the wreck of a Dutch warship — were lifted from their resting place off Gun Rock, on one of the Farne Islands, off Bamburgh. Police had to use heavy lifting equipment and specialist vehicles to remove the cannons, which weigh about two tons each. Inspector Ian Clayton said no one had yet been arrested or charged. "Our inquiries are continuing in liaison with the Receiver of Wrecks. The area off the coast is strewn with wrecks of this kind. We believe the cannons came from a 17th century Dutch vessel." He said it had yet to be established whether it was an act of theft or salvage.

Airport baby to be adopted

A NEWBORN boy dumped in a Heathrow airport nappy bin in February is to be adopted soon, a spokesman for Hillingdon social services, in west London, announced yesterday. Yaakov Wise said his new parents would be chosen from previously-approved potential adoptive parents. The baby was found wrapped in a carrier bag in the toilets of British Airways Oasis departure lounge in Terminal 4. A woman heard his cries and he was taken to the neo-natal special care baby unit at Ashford hospital, in Surrey. His mother has never been traced.

Garsington Opera

ON August 9 the Guardian reported a ruling by the Local Government Ombudsman that five residents of Garsington, Oxfordshire, should each receive £200 compensation and stated that this was for "noise pollution" caused by an open air opera. We have been asked to make clear that the compensation is for maladministration by South Oxfordshire district council in ignoring sound-proofing restrictions, and is to be paid by the council, not by Garsington Opera.



A policeman seeks help from the public in the search for Jodi and Tom Loughlin, aged six and four, who went missing on Sunday on a Norfolk beach

PHOTOGRAPH: JASON MITCHELL

Search for children widens

Vivek Chaudhary on the disappearance of a brother and sister from a crowded beach 'ideal for a quiet family holiday'

FROM the edge of the sand dunes, its end can barely be seen on a cloudy day amid the mist and sea spray. As flat as a murky brown pancake stretching endlessly into the horizon, the beach at Holme next the Sea, Norfolk, is, according to residents, an ideal place for a quiet family holiday away from the hectic fairgrounds and amusement arcades of neighbouring Hunstanton. The tranquillity of the resort has been shattered by the disappearance of Jodi Loughlin, aged six, and her brother Tom, four. Parents cautiously watched their children as a helicopter buzzed overhead, one of two being used in the search for the children, now entering its

third day. As a group of boys played football and a father and son flew a kite in the cloudy, overcast sky, Kelvin Bobin was ushering his two sons, Elliot, five, and Michael, three, back from the edge of the sea. "I haven't let them out of my sight all day," said Mr Bobin, on holiday from Essex. "At the moment the tide's out, but who knows what could happen? I would normally let my sons run around, but I haven't let go of them for the past couple of days." Judith Kirkby, on holiday from Rugby, Northamptonshire, said: "My three kids wanted to go swimming today but I'm too scared to let them into the water. It's silly, but after what's happened it's very difficult to relax."

Jodi and Tom went missing on Sunday moments after arriving on Holme beach with their parents, Kevin Loughlin and Lynette Thornton, of south London. With hordes of holidaymakers on the beach, the two children were last seen by their parents at 5.30 pm running towards the sea. After searching for them for two hours they alerted police, who have been scouring the area since. Police said yesterday that teams of volunteers and specialist search teams would continue to scour coastal and inland areas. Up to 50 people are involved in the search, using sniffer dogs and thermal imaging equipment. Superintendent John Hale of Norfolk Constabulary said: "We have been concentrating our search along the beach and in houses, buildings and outhouses. We now plan to move the search a further two miles inland." The disappearance has devastated the sleepy village of Holme, population 200, where, claim locals, nothing ever happens except the annual invasion of city dwellers looking to sample a bit of rural Norfolk life. Most of the tiny population is on first names terms in Holme, which comprises a shop, a pub, a church and a couple of stables. Posters inviting holidaymakers to a special summer church service are dotted along the main road which leads to other villages along the Norfolk coast and is only busy during the summer months. For locals, however, the dangers of Norfolk's flat coastline and turbulent waters are well known, but many believe they should be made public to the visitors who flock to the area every year. Julie, a local resident who has two children aged under 10, said: "I don't think parents in this village are that worried, but of course we are all deeply shocked by what's happened. We see the dangers of the sea all the time. The tide is very strong and the coastline is littered with creeks, sand dunes and sand banks. You can get stranded because the tide comes in very quickly. People who come from outside don't really appreciate that, it's the same as we can't really appreciate the dangers in towns and cities."

Barrister defends covert videoing of 'sexy' princess in top store

PRINCESS Diana and other women had no right to complain if they appeared provocatively dressed in public and men took pictures of them, a court was told yesterday. Less than a week after the princess gained an injunction against a photographer, barrister Jerome Samuel told Southwark crown court in south London that criticism of men who took photographs or video footage of women in sexy clothes, even if without their knowledge, was unfounded. Her comments came during legal arguments while she was prosecuting Gary Archer, the former head of security at Harvey Nichols, for two charges of theft from the London store. The judge later dismissed the charges. Mr Archer, aged 36, from Somerset, was branded a "video rat" in January after allegations that security cameras at the store were used to record the princess as she shopped and met a property millionaire, Christopher Whalley, in the coffee shop. The 25-minute video contained lingering close-ups of her cleavage and legs. Mr Archer's defence argued the "video rat" tag prejudiced his trial. "It is no offence at all to take videos of people who wear low-neck dresses in public places. Princess Diana was in a public place — I think criticism of a person

who took the video would be unfounded." Mr Archer, who resigned from Harvey Nichols in 1994 over an unrelated matter, denies making the tapes, which were discovered in his desk. Police were called but it was decided no offence had been committed. Earlier, Mark Milliken-Smith, defending, told the court that the theft charges, which involved two rugs, two walkie-talkies, a tapestry border and a footstool appeared to have been investigated by Mr Archer's common-law wife, Susan, after they separated last year. There had been undue delay, and the prosecution and police had made mistakes. It was also possible that Mrs Archer, a prosecution witness, had sold the story of the video as part of a campaign against her husband. The judge, Recorder Desmond Browne QC, agreed that the story was not in itself prejudicial. He dismissed the charges, saying the possibility of a prosecution witness having investigated the charges could be prejudicial, and the lapse since 1993 when the rugs were allegedly taken meant Mr Archer was unable to trace a defence witness. After the hearing, Miss Samuel said: "The point would have his reputation lowered in the view of a jury by taking a photograph of a woman in a low cut dress. "It is not necessarily my point of view — I was using a legal argument."

DNA test results clear five boys on trip with murdered schoolgirl

SOLICITORS acting for five boys who travelled to France with the murdered Cornish schoolgirl, Caroline Dickinson, spoke yesterday of the boys' feeling of "almighty relief" after DNA samples they had provided to police were shown to be negative. Results of the tests were made public last night a day after the boys, aged between 12 and 14, voluntarily gave samples to the team of British and French detectives investigating the 13-year-old's death. Caroline was raped and suffocated four weeks ago while staying at a youth hostel in the Brittany town of Pleine Fougères with a party of 38 children and five adults from Launceston College. Samples taken from the five boys at Launceston police station on Monday were immediately flown to France for analysis. In a statement yesterday Devon and Cornwall police said the tests had all proved negative. Katherine Farnall, the solicitor representing the five

Labour fights shy of royal Way Ahead Group reforms

A FUTURE Labour government would not permit effective "privatisation" of the monarchy by allowing the Queen to trade her Civil List payments for the revenues of the Crown Estate. A Blair-led government already committed to constitutional reform — including devolution and ending hereditary voting rights in the Lords — would not welcome further controversy, and the Queen is committed to acting only by consensus. After this week's revelation that the royal family's Way Ahead Group is considering reform options, opinion on Labour's front and back benches looks united in its desire to retain the limited parliamentary accountability financial control provides. "That's not on," said one senior MP. "The Civil List provides one means by which the monarch is accountable to Parliament." Another senior MP, former minister Alan Williams, called the idea "a load of constitutional nonsense". Some Tories are also wary at what he calls a royal "panic" in response to a decade of worsening publicity. On paper the abandonment of the £8.9 million Civil List and state payments totalling around £55 million a year, would be a good bargain in revenue given up in 1780 and now worth an annual £94.6 million gross from billions in capital value. Financially it is inconceivable, and any publicity value from "standing on our own two feet" would be offset by concern that the monarchy was privatising its assets — and could, in theory, start disposing of assets like jewellery, land or art works. Both republican MPs and monarchical modernisers suspect this week's publicity is silly season hot air that will amount to little in the long run. Some MPs would like a select committee or royal commission to investigate royal finances, but so scared of the issue are both Labour and Tory front benches, reply other reform-minded MPs, that the only hope of change is if the Windsors initiate it. Letters, page 8

Advertisement for Alliance & Leicester bank. It features a central image of several bottles of wine on a tray. The headline reads "Why switch your current account to Alliance & Leicester?". Below the image, it lists several benefits: "FREE £30 drinks vouchers", "Switch to brighter banking with the Alliance Account and we'll give you plenty of reasons to celebrate - including £30 of drinks vouchers if you open an account before 5 November, 1996.", "24 hour telephone banking, 365 days a year - pay your bills, check your balance or transfer funds whenever you want.", "Credit interest of up to 3.0% gross p.a.", "A network of Alliance & Leicester branches across the UK.", "Free banking (while you're in credit).", "Authorised overdrafts at a low monthly interest rate of just 0.75% (EAR 9.50%) and no monthly fee.", "£100 cheque guarantee card / debit* and cash card.", "Over 8,500 LINK cash machines give you easy access to your money." It also includes a form to request more information, with fields for name, address, phone number, and date of birth. The form is addressed to "Alliance & Leicester, Building Society, FREEPOST (LS 948), Leeds LS2 8AL".

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page, possibly a signature or a note.

Cost delays moves on air pollution

Paul Brown
Environment Correspondent

PEOPLE are being killed by air pollution from traffic and particularly diesel engines, the Government will officially admit today when it presents a new set of much tighter air quality targets.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, will announce maximum concentrations for eight known pollutants which cause cancer or restrict lung function.

They are benzene, carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particles, sulphur dioxide and 1,3 Butadiene (an organic compound given off by petrol, which gives it its smell).

The long overdue Air Quality Strategy follows months of consultation between Mr Gummer, his allies at the Department of Health and opponents at the Treasury and Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Gummer won the battle to introduce the tighter limits recommended by his own panel of experts — but lost the economic argument as the DTI feared traffic restrictions might damage the economy.

As a compromise Mr Gummer has put off achieving the new targets until 2005. In the interim he has given local authorities powers to act when pollution gets too high, possibly by closing roads and stopping traffic. In practice, though, this is unlikely to be effective.

According to Mr Gummer's own experts, the statistics show that by postponing action he is accepting thousands will die prematurely.

In November he was told by his expert panel on air quality standards that up to 35 people a day were dying as a result of minute particles in air, mostly from vehicle exhausts and the majority from diesel engines.

There is no safe limit for PM 10s — particulate matter

less than 10 microns in diameter (a micron is a millionth of a metre) — but the experts recommended 50 parts per billion in air and that has been accepted by Mr Gummer.

The problem for him is that around 80 per cent of buses and lorries now exceed emission levels required to meet these stringent standards.

From April, each local authority will have to produce an air quality strategy involving measuring pollution levels and evolving schemes to bring them below the target.

The problem is that local authorities have no extra funds or control over motorways where many of the problems are produced.

Perhaps the best example is the ozone pollution in the last few days. The Government's existing standard is 50 parts per billion over a one hour period, a figure rarely exceeded. The new standard is 50 parts per billion over an eight hour period, which means the whole country has been suffering a pollution episode in the last few days — and local authorities would be unable to solve that problem.

For many of the pollutants the Government is counting on the European Commission to come up with new measures to control exhaust emissions to meet its 2005 deadlines for the eight substances.

The National Society for Clean Air welcomed the new standards as a milestone in air pollution control — but said decisive government action was required if they were to be met by 2005. Local authorities could not solve the problem on their own.

Michael Meacher, Labour's environment spokesman, said the measures were "a little too late" and claimed the pollution was caused by transport chaos inflicted by 17 years of decline in public transport and unregulated promotion of car use under the Tory government.

Guardian writers profile six of the life peers whose appointment was announced today



Maurice Saatchi, whose elevation to the House of Lords underlines the position of today's marketing men at the centre stage of politics

PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

New Lord Saatchi ready for the attack

Maurice Saatchi

Michael White
Political Editor

MAURICE Saatchi is not the first advertising guru to reach the red leather benches of the House of Lords, nor the first clever son of immigrant Jewish parents to make the same journey. But Rothschilds and Disraelis apart, his name must be the best known.

In the mid-1980s Saatchi & Saatchi, the firm he founded with his older brother Charles — they are now aged 53 and 50 — became the biggest ad agency in the world, only to stumble in a shareholder-driven coup which ousted them in 1995.

More than that, they had been associated with creating the astonishing global phenomenon that was Margaret Thatcher in her prime, and became both rich and famous in the process — rich enough after the 1992 election campaign not to press for payment of a £1 million Tory party debt.

Unlike Lady Thatcher, the Saatchis bounced back from their own defeat. M & C Saatchi won key contracts — like British Airways — from

strategy," one colleague explains. "He asks 'What is the message?' and makes things simple and clear, but he leaves the creative detail to others."

As such Maurice Saatchi, who is married to the novelist Josephine Hart, is the driving force behind the controversial New Labour, New Danger campaign, with its crude play on naked fear of what a Labour government could mean.

Labour campaign strategists regard this as a new low in negative advertising, imported from the US and based

on policy differences or values, but on personal attack — in this case the demonising of Tony Blair, Labour's chief asset.

In reality it is never quite that simple. Though parties of the right have pioneered such techniques throughout the 20th century — chiefly because they work, as even the much-abused satanic Blair may eventually work — Labour and even the Liberal Democrats and defunct SDP have also dabbled.

In the 1970 campaign, which Harold Wilson unexpectedly lost to Ted Heath, it

was Labour's Yesterday's Men — puppet figures of leading Tories — which caused controversy. Though not in the demon eyes league, it did not prevent a seat in the House of Lords going to Peter Lovell-Davis, the Wilsonite newspaper man who helped dream it up. He is still there, ready to greet Lords Saatchi and Gummer.

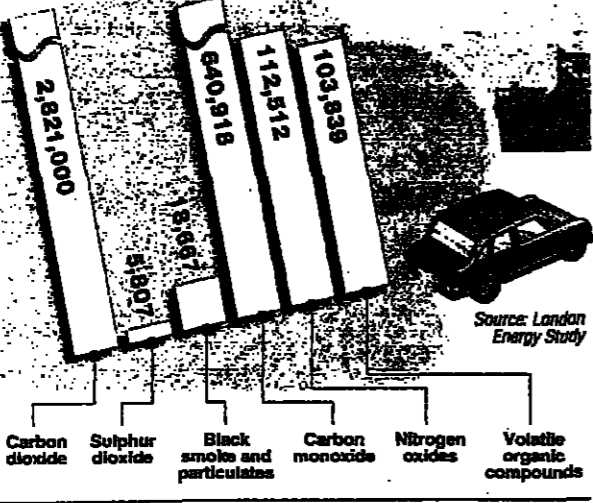
What has changed in the intervening years, as today's double peesage underlines, is the way in which the marketing men have moved from the fringe to the centre stage of politics.

Labour will complain at blatant patronage, but is swayed by similar disciplines. Maurice Saatchi, currently on holiday, likes to say that he no longer wants to run the world's biggest agency. "We've done that. Our ambition is to be the most sought-after." A fifth, improbable, victory for John Major would boost that prospect. With the stakes so high, scruples may decline.

"Maurice is really very humble, you can tell him when he's wrong," says one admirer. We shall see.

In your face

An average car emits about four times its own weight in carbon dioxide every year, and that's not all. Graph below shows total annual emissions for all road traffic in London, in tonnes



Source: London Energy Study

Youth unemployment is down to laziness. Whose?

A staggering one third of Britain's unemployed are under 25. Is somebody not doing their job? To find out who's doing what and who's not, join us at our evening debate on 4th September in London SW1. Speakers include Peter Kilfoyle MP, Tony Webb, CBI, Brendan Barber, TUC and Chair, Martin Bashir of BBC TV. For details, and to reserve your free seat, call Elaine Sedgwick on 0171 837 4299.

Richard Rogers
Liz Symons
Peter Gummer
John Taylor
John Alderdice

Richard Rogers

WHEN he accepted his knighthood, Richard Rogers's 86-year-old mother was furious that her rebel son was joining the establishment. But even with a peerage, he will still do his best to stir things up. Born in Italy in 1933 to English parents, he came to Britain in 1939. After an education complicated by dyslexia — he was categorised as lazy — he left school at 16, but studied architecture in London after finishing his National Service. His break came when he won the competition to design the Pompidou Centre in Paris. It attracts more visitors than the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre. His other biggie is the Lloyd's building in London, and more recently he designed the Channel 4 building, also in London.

He has an erratic memory and a tendency to ramble around a subject. But plan him down on one of his pet themes — the future of London, for example — and he shines.

— Dan Glaister

Liz Symons

FOR almost a decade Liz Symons has been one of the brightest and best known names in the TUC, and at 45 she is still one of the youngest.

She heads the First Division Association, which looks after the Civil Service from senior ranks up to permanent secretary level.

With 10,000 members the association is not large, but it has always been listened to because of its membership. Liz Symons's flock consists of 20 per cent women. She is still waiting for the first woman permanent secretary.

Her job gives her considerably more prominence than if she had stuck to a bill drafting team at the Environment Department. Her rise in the labour movement began when she joined the tax officials' union as a junior official.

She was educated at Putney high school and Girton, where she read history. Half-way through PhD research into the politics of pre-civil war Sussex, she abandoned academia for Whitehall.

— Keith Harper

Peter Gummer

THINGS are changing in the Gummer family. Peter, for so long known as "brother of John Selwyn Gummer", is starting to attract more attention than his beef-eating sibling. His life peesage neatly coincides with his move to the Royal Opera House, where he takes over as chairman next month. At a time of change, his profile will be high. He is something of an opera nut, and claims to have been to Covent Garden almost once a week since the 1960s.

Born in 1942, he studied at King's School, Rochester, and Selwyn College, Cambridge, before going into business.

He has worked on a number of quangos, the most controversial job being his position as head of the Arts Council's National Lottery Advisory Panel, which advised the Arts Council to give an initial £50 million to the Royal Opera House for its redevelopment. His other unpaid job is to help dream up Tory advertising.

— Dan Glaister

John Taylor

"WHEN life gives you a lemon, you make it into lemonade," the irrepressible harrister John Taylor said yesterday after hearing that he is to become the first black Conservative peer.

He capped it with a joke about his late father, a Jamaican taxi driver who emigrated and played professional cricket for Warwickshire. "It was always his ambition that I should go to Lords, albeit to play cricket."

It has not always been so larky for the co-president of BBC2's The Street, practising London lawyer and former Home Office speech writer.

When he was selected as Tory candidate for Cheltenham in 1991, a grassroots revolt erupted in favour of what some called "a local man" and against what others denounced as "a bloody nigger". He fought on, but the late Charles Irving's 4,396 majority became a 1,658 lead for Liberal Democrat Nigel Jones.

In the Lords, Mr Taylor will specialise in legal and broadcasting matters.

— Michael White

John Alderdice

THE ALLIANCE Party of Northern Ireland has finally gained a voice at Westminster with the peerage granted to its leader, John Alderdice, today on the nomination of Paddy Ashdown.

He gains a steady third of the vote in his East Belfast constituency and his party a tenth of the vote in Northern Ireland — as much as Sinn Fein. He will speak in the Lords as leader of the Alliance Party on Northern Ireland and take the Liberal Democrat whip on wider British issues.

Since taking over his party in 1987, aged 32, Dr Alderdice has been a passionate advocate of partnership in Northern Ireland and a critic of the "not an inch" mentality of unionists and nationalists. He gained a seat on the Northern Ireland Forum and has played a key role in the peace process. The son of a Presbyterian minister, he is the first Protestant to lead the Alliance since just after its inception in 1972.

— Martin Linton

£1m deficit forces Grampian police to plead for extra cash to stave off insolvency

Erlend Clouston

THE police force which, among other things, guards the holidaying royal family and most oil and gas fields is only a few months away from insolvency.

The convener of the Grampian joint police board warned yesterday that a projected £1.1 million deficit would leave little or no money for the force's wage bill from January onwards.

Grampian, responsible for 3,500 square miles of north-east Scotland, including the Queen's Balmoral estate, is to appeal to the Scottish Office for help with the crisis, ironically compounded by the £500,000 cost of policing this year's Scottish Conservative conference in Aberdeen, convener of the board, which covers the authorities of Aberdeen city, Aberdeenshire and Moray, is blamed for inadequate government funding for the shortfall. Efforts to "highlight the situation" had been ignored, he said yesterday, after the Grampian chief constable, Ian Oliver, delivered a gloomy assessment of his force's condition.

Grampian's £50 million budget for 1996/97 has already obliged Mr Oliver to impose cuts worth £2.3 million.

The force is 30 short of its establishment figure of 1,178, and Mr Oliver warned that the expected retirement of 18 officers would "prejudice the whole operation of the force". In the past few months the budget has had to cope with a 3.5 per cent police pay award, the £127,650 cost of policing a new age travellers' convoy and the burden of protecting the Tory conference.

The joint board is to ask the Scottish Office to meet at least the £700,000 cost of the travellers and Conservative operations.

There is resentment that the conference was classified as regional — and therefore a drain on local police funds — rather than national, when

the bulk of the expense went on protecting national figures. Dorset police will receive an additional £1.5 million of government funds for the Tory conference in Bournemouth in October.

The reorganisation of Scottish local government has made police finances particu-

larly vulnerable to unexpected events. The new independent boards which oversee the eight forces have not had time to build up contingency funds.

The Scottish Office said any points the Grampian board put forward would be considered.

THE ESPIO 160 QUATTRO. THE WORLD'S LONG

You don't need luck, you

How long will it be before Alan Shearer shares a stamp with the diminutive head of the Sovereign?

Julian Critchley

Major Buyoya seeks an end to the blockade in a shake-up to show serious reform of the Tutsi military

Burundi strongman sacks army chiefs

Chris McGreal
in Bujumbura

BURUNDI'S military leader yesterday sought to win a relaxation of international sanctions and raise his credibility at home by dismissing three controversial senior military officers, including the army chief of staff implicated in the assassination of the country's first Hutu president.

Burundi's neighbours to call off a blockade which has shut down most of its trade, brought fuel rationing and left the country isolated. Nor is it likely to persuade Hutus ousted from office by Maj Buyoya that he is interested in ending the Tutsi monopoly on power.

Maj Buyoya overthrew Burundi's divided civilian government three weeks ago, promising to end the climate of impunity that has allowed the military to kill almost unchecked. Critics said then a crucial test would be his response to a United Nations report which concluded that senior army officers were responsible for the assassination of President Melchior Ndayizeye three years ago, and for the subsequent slaughter of Hutus.

The report singled out the army chief of staff, Colonel Jean Bikomagu, for particular criticism. Col Bikomagu was among those dismissed yesterday, but the army has yet to say whether he faces prosecution.

Maj Buyoya's spokesman, Jean-Luc Ndiraye, said the shake-up was to demonstrate that Burundi's new military leader is in control. But Maj Buyoya will also have moved to reassure a strong extremist faction in the army that the dismissals are not the start of a purge or full-scale reform that could threaten the shape of the military. Much of the minority Tutsi population views the army as its sole guarantee of security.

Maj Buyoya will still look to yesterday's dismissals to back his pleas for Burundi's neighbours to lift a blockade — imposed to demand the restoration of constitutional government and negotiations to end the bloody civil war — which has proved more effective than was predicted.

Riot police end Seoul campus occupation

Andrew Higgins
in Hong Kong

THOUSANDS of battle-scarred South Korean students yesterday called for an end to riot police occupation of the campus stronghold of protesters demanding that United States troops withdraw and the divided peninsula be reunified.

Colonial relic to bite dust

SOUTH KOREA began demolishing Seoul's blue-domed capitol building yesterday in an attempt to erase memories of Japanese rule of the Korean peninsula.

A frenzied dawn assault by 5,000 helmeted police backed by helicopters ended a week-long occupation of Seoul's Yonsei University, the focus of the worst confrontation between students and the state since a campaign for democracy in the late 1980s.

The capitol was built by the Japanese in 1926 in the grounds of Kyongbok Palace, the principal royal residence of Korea's Yi dynasty, which was deposed in 1910 when Japan began 35 years of colonial rule.

The assault, in which more than 1,000 police and students were injured, was a bloody showdown to what began as a peaceful three-day festival calling for unification. The authorities outlawed the gathering and blocked a planned march towards the heavily militarised base that has divided the peninsula since the 1950-53 Korean war.

It took only two hours for the authorities to regain control of the university's main building and seize its 1,000 or so defenders. A further 2,000 students entrenched in a nearby science building tried to flee but were caught.

Some 37,000 US troops help South Korea guard the frontier, which lies only a short drive from Seoul and marks the boundary between one of Asia's most successful economies and the continent's last doctrinaire Marxist regime.

North Korea's economic collapse and the spectre of mass starvation after two years of floods have heightened fears about Pyongyang's intentions. Such nervousness might explain the seemingly counterproductive ferocity with which the authorities responded to the unrest.



A South Korean riot policeman shields himself from a burning barricade during the storming of Yonsei University

Screen
Derek Malcolm reviews the latest film releases every Thursday in **The Guardian**

Tamil Nadu writes a new scenario for the premier who fell from grace

Suzanne Goldenberg
in Madras

SHE has lost her kingdom and, facing corruption charges, is fighting for her liberty. Her closest allies have turned against her. But J. Jayalalitha, who until recently ran the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu with an iron hand, is undaunted.

feat in May — the party kept only four seats in the state assembly — has slightly humbled her, and she agreed to be interviewed by telephone.

all the people responsible for the misdeeds of the past. That is why people voted for us. There is no witch-hunt," said Murali Manan, the federal industry minister, who plays a key role in state politics.

cabinet had become very arrogant. They had forgotten that they were there to represent the people. There was a campaign of disinformation a conspiracy to keep me in the dark about what was happening all around me.

Three of her ministers are behind bars, one charged with conspiracy to commit murder, the others with milking welfare funds. So is Sankala Natarajan, a confidant so close that Ms Jayalalitha called her a sister.

away, so does it mean I should go to prison to satisfy the sadistic impulses of Karunanidhi and company?

Ms Jayalalitha says trust in the system was her undoing. "Many of the ministers in my

was proceeding too slowly. She has filed four private corruption cases.



'My political enemies can't bear the thought of women having so much power'
J. Jayalalitha

News in brief

FBI expands global role

THE United States Federal Bureau of Investigation plans to nearly double the number of its agents abroad in the next four years by opening offices in a further 23 foreign cities. The move is in response to what the FBI claims is a dramatic expansion in international terrorism, organised crime and narcotics trafficking affecting US citizens.

Budget cuts anger Aborigines

AUSTRALIA'S new conservative government yesterday unveiled a 1996/97 budget containing sweeping spending cuts despite continuing violent street protests.

India holds firm on test ban

THE United States and its allies denounced India after New Delhi yesterday rejected the nuclear test ban treaty being adopted in Geneva. The countries have promised to bring the pact to the United Nations General Assembly for signature.

Bomb suspect passes lie test

THE Olympic bomb suspect Richard Jewell passed a lie detector test in which he denied involvement in the blast on July 27, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported yesterday.

1,000 troops exposed to sarin

THE Pentagon has admitted that up to 1,000 United States soldiers may have been exposed to sarin nerve gas when army engineers blew up at least seven tons of Iraqi toxin at the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

Suu Kyi officials jailed

A PERSONAL assistant to the Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and two other party members have been sentenced to seven years in prison by the military government, National League for Democracy (NLD) sources said yesterday.



A boy in Zenica rides past a pile of water melons for sale Bosnia's first post-war national polls, due to take place on September 14

Dutch towns take pot luck

AFTER decades of tolerating marijuana sales in local coffee shops, some Dutch towns have decided to move into the soft drugs business themselves.

Handwritten Arabic text: كتابنا العربي



A scuba diver investigates a bust of Lenin at an underwater museum of communist monuments at the Russian Black Sea resort of Cape Tar'khankut. Divers created the display

Time runs out for Grozny

James Meek in Moscow

WITH the hours ticking away before a potentially horrific escalation of the battle for the Chechen capital Grozny, Russia's security council secretary, General Alexander Lebed, yesterday cast fresh doubts over who is running the city by accusing unnamed forces of falsifying instructions from President Boris Yeltsin.

Gen Lebed was said by Itar-Tass news agency to be planning to fly to Grozny today to prevent the conflict escalating in the face of defiance by Russian field commanders. They appear to be set on reducing the city and any remaining civilians to ashes in an attack they say could take a month.

Gen Lebed's press spokesman, Alexander Barkhatov, said yesterday: "Alexander Lebed has no connection with anything said or done by Pulikovskiy."

The alleged instructions, detailed at a press conference on Monday by the president's press spokesman, Sergei Yastrzhembskiy, ordered Gen Lebed to clear Grozny of separatist forces, who took over the city on August 6. But they also ordered him to ensure all Russian forces were pulled out of the republic by September 1.

Mr Yastrzhembskiy yesterday dismissed Gen Lebed's doubts and denied a report on the Echo Moskvy radio station that Mr Yeltsin was receiving urgent heart treatment.

ing to speculation that the real reins of power are being wielded by the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin. Russian helicopters dropped leaflets on Grozny yesterday, warning civilians to leave. Christopher Besse, the head of a British aid agency working in Chechnya, Merlin, said that he did not believe all civilians would be able to get out in time.

Belgians seek police advice in Europe

Stephen Bates in Brussels

BELGIAN police launched an appeal for help to police forces throughout Europe yesterday following the revelations of child abduction, including the deaths of two eight-year-old girls, around the city of Charleroi in the south of the country.



Lelièvre: Abduction and imprisonment charges



Nihoul: Charged with criminal association



Martin: Dutroux's wife, charged as an accomplice

News in brief

Israel seized four Lebanese

Israel snatched four Lebanese residents from south Lebanon earlier this year and held them in Israel, according to a report by the high court yesterday. The Israeli newspaper said the high court had rejected the four unnamed men's appeals against their detention last month. — Reuters.

Judge robbed

Arthur Chaskalson, the president of South Africa's highest court, was robbed in his Johannesburg home on Monday night, police said yesterday. The intruders took his watch and wallet, a stereo and video machine before driving off in his car. — AP.

Hijack stand

Cuba demanded yesterday that the United States hand back four Cubans who hijacked planes to flee the island, saying failure to do so could jeopardise existing immigration accords between the two countries. — Reuters.

Storm force

Tropical storm Dolly reached hurricane strength yesterday just before it reached Mexico's Yucatan peninsula, weather forecasters said. Dolly is expected to approach the Texas-Mexico border tomorrow. — Reuters.

Actress inquest

The Los Angeles coroner's office was due to release toxicology results suggesting that the actress Margaux Hemingway committed suicide by drug overdose, a local television station KNBC-TV reported. — AP.

Syria warns that Netanyahu is intent on war

David Hirst in Beirut

STATE-CONTROLLED Syrian newspapers said yesterday that Israel was preparing an "aggression" against Syria "for which it only remains to set the date".

It was Syria's clearest warning of possible war with Israel since Benjamin Netanyahu and his rightwing Likud came to power in Israel in May.

Ever since Mr Netanyahu was elected prime minister, Syria has repeatedly said he was all but destroying the peace process by his rejection of "land for peace". Now Damascus seems persuaded that Syria is the target of a campaign of threats and intimidation intended to make it choose between a military collision over Lebanon and a return to negotiations on Mr Netanyahu's intransigent terms.

This is now the standard Lebanese interpretation of Mr Netanyahu's "Lebanon first" proposal, under which Israel would withdraw from south Lebanon in return for the dismantling of the Hizbullah militia and its accompanying rhetoric.

The Damascus newspaper al-Thaurah said: "Netanyahu is furiously bringing grist to the mill of his escalation and aggressiveness, as if he really is preparing for an attack for which it only remains to set the date."

It made much of a commentary by a leading Israeli strategist, who wrote in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz last week: "As long as the Netanyahu government intends to continue its present policy towards Syria, it must prepare the Israeli army and citizens for war in the not too distant future."

Al-Thaurah called on the international community to "restrain Netanyahu before he embarks on new adventures which will bring only destruction and desolation". But it added: "Syria is ready for any eventualities that Israel has in store for it."

Last month the Syrian chief of staff, Hikmet Shehahi, spoke of Syria's "military option" against Israel. Beirut commentators note that the warnings voiced by Mr Netanyahu, his ministers and army commanders are, as a rule, not only more menacing in tone than those of the previous Labour government but come almost daily, and are increasingly directed at Syria as well as Hizbullah.

Narcotics use soars among US teenagers

Martin Walker in Washington

A DRAMATIC increase in drug use by American teenagers was reported by the US department of health and human services yesterday — a rise of 78 per cent between 1992 and 1995.

In 1993-94 alone, there was a 33 per cent increase among 12- to 17-year-olds. That was the year President Bill Clinton cut the budget of the Office of National Drug Control Policy by 80 per cent.

The National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, involving 18,000 teenagers, found that drug use of all kinds had risen by 78 per cent since Mr Clinton became president. In 1994-95 use of LSD rose 54 per cent and cocaine 166 per cent — though fewer than 1 per cent of teenagers use cocaine. Marijuana use rose 37 per cent.

Some experts believe people of the baby-boom generation are not sufficiently responsible parents to warn their children off drugs. "We have a generation of parents who have a difficult time talking to their kids about drugs, since 57 per cent of them used drugs in the 1960s," said James Cople, of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions.

Drug lord cites Fujimori aide

Jane Diaz-Lima in Lima

GOVERNMENT officials in Peru have closed ranks behind one of President Alberto Fujimori's closest advisers, accused by a former drug lord of taking pay-offs in return for information about anti-drug operations.

The drug trafficker, Demetrio Chávez, known as "El Vaticano", told a Lima court that he paid Vladimir Montesinos, the strongman of the country's intelligence service and one of Mr Fujimori's most trusted aides, \$50,000 (\$24,400) a month between June 1991 and August 1992.

mander-in-chief have all defended Mr Montesinos, saying the allegations are in revenge for his part in jailing drug traffickers. Blanca Nelida, who heads the prosecution service, called the allegations a "lie" on television, saying accusations from a person of El Vaticano's calibre should not be taken seriously.

The opposition is not so sure, suspecting that the government "doth protest too much". Henry Pease, a congress member, said the desperation of the government's defence of Mr Montesinos has convinced him that this is a corruption cover-up. The former presidential candidate and United Nations secretary-general Javier Pérez de Quéllar has led calls for an investigation.

Reagan's home on the range to fall under the hammer

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

RONALD REAGAN'S isolated California ranch — where the Queen once ate re-fried beans — is up for sale.

Mr Reagan, aged 86, suffers from Alzheimer's disease. His wife, Nancy, cares for him at their Bel Air home near Los Angeles and they no longer visit the ranch. The 680-acre Rancho del Cielo (farm in the sky) is 29 miles from Santa Barbara.

Politics without invective is as appealing as alcohol-free lager, or pleasure-free sex. Ignore those pious MPs who grumble that "negative campaigning" obscures the issues: they are talking hogwash. We need some below-the-belt political insults.

Francis Wheen G2 page 7

I'm all for bringing back the birch, but only between consenting adults. CORE VIDAL

Chasing the wrong target

Child prostitutes need protection, not punishment

CHILD prostitution is something which is supposed to happen in Bangkok, not Bradford. Like the Victorian era when child prostitution was rampant, modern Britain has been good at averting its gaze. Some readers may want to dismiss Maggie O'Kane's harrowing account of a child prostitute in today's paper as a one-off, an isolated criminal act not a deep-seated systemic problem. But her account coincides with the publication of a Barnardos report on the stark life of 45 child prostitutes in Bradford. Many were lured into the trade by young pimps but then forced to continue the practice. The Barnardos report follows last year's pioneering work by the Children's Society, which showed in a four-year period 1,500 young women under 18 were convicted of offences relating to prostitution and 1,900 cautioned. A 10-year-old was among those cautioned and four 12-year-olds among those convicted.

No one knows how many child prostitutes there are in the UK, but child specialists believe it could be as high as 5,000. About 98,000 young people run away from home — or care — every year. Almost half are not reported missing. When the Children's Society opened Britain's first safe house for runaways in 1965, seven per cent of the 500 who used it said they had been involved in prostitution. They believed they had no other choice. Without money, food or shelter, selling sex was the one way they were able to survive. About 20 per cent were already victims of sexual abuse. Yet instead of being seen as victims requiring protection, far too many are still treated as criminals in need of punishment.

Our current double standards in dealing with the problem might even make the Victorians blush. Any man who tried to have sex with an under-aged child in his house could expect to be investigated by police and social ser-

vices. But if he goes down the road and pays £20 to a child prostitute, he will be relatively immune. Like the officers interviewed yesterday on the BBC's Today programme, the police excuse clients on the grounds the girls looked older than their true age. There are further contradictions: a 15-year-old is too young to have sex lawfully, but can be prosecuted for offering it. Regrettably, when campaigners ask "A man has sex with a 12-year-old prostitute — who should pay for it?" the current answer is, not the pimp or the client. They both get away with far too much. Moreover, it is worth noting the seeming "respectability" of many of the clients, who in Bradford were reported by Barnardos to have jobs, nice cars and who go home to wives and families. They would be shocked to be given their proper label: paedophiles.

What should be done? More facts are needed. Barnardos wants a parliamentary working party on child prostitution. Here would be a chance for the Home Affairs select committee to rehabilitate itself after its pathetic report on gun control. The police and social services need to pay more heed to the 1989 Children Act, under which they have a duty to protect those under 18 from "significant harm". It is pimps and clients who should be prosecuted, not child prostitutes. The Children's Society is right to be campaigning for the decriminalisation of child prostitution. It is no use ministers insisting, as they do, on parents taking more interest in their children: many of the children end up as child prostitutes are already in care. We need more help for the single homeless, more special housing projects, plus the restoration of benefits to 17-year-olds. Above all, we need to re-educate men: having sex with children is wrong. Paying for it doesn't excuse it or make it proper.



OLD TORIES-OLD COBBLERS

Letters to the Editor

Hawks, doves and morality

COMMENTING ON ONE World Week's decision to focus their education pack on our act of disarming a Hawk aircraft destined for Indonesia, the children's work officer for the Church of England Board of Education says: "We need to teach children and young people that the law is not to be broken in any circumstances" (Church schemes under fire, August 17).

In acquitting us, the jury accepted our argument that we had not broken the law as we had lawful excuse for our actions. However, I am concerned at the Church's attitude that the law is not to be broken in any circumstances. Can I assume that the Church condemned civil rights activists breaking segregation laws in the American South? What about men in Germany who were shot for refusing to join the army under the Nazis — they were also breaking the law.

Surely the Church's main concern should be morality; just because something is legal, it is not necessarily moral. Slavery was once legal — would the Church suggest that it was wrong to oppose it?

For me, the most fundamental Christian teaching, which must be upheld above all others, is "Thou shalt not kill." Slavery was once legal — would the Church suggest that it was wrong to oppose it?

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Money and the monarch

YOUR article about the royal finances (Survival) £10 million a year from the Civil List ought to be welcome news to the taxpayer. A number of once-noble families live satisfactorily on the income generated by farming their great estates and by opening them up for tourism. The Queen has made some headway here by charging people a great deal of money to amble through sections of Buckingham Palace. This is a sound business venture and were it extended to other castles and palaces, the royal family would become self-sufficient and no longer a charge on the rest of us.

But Her Majesty has let it be known that she will graciously accept £85 million income from the Crown Estate instead. How charming of the royals to have worked out a system that actually increases their wealth at a time when everyone else is looking for savings to be made.

John Thatcher
184 Binley Road,
Coventry CV3 1HG.

HAVE deep suspicions about the motives surrounding the proposed returning of the Crown Estate, including so much of the seabed and coastline of the UK to private, and somewhat greedy, ownership. May I suggest an accurate and concept that "commons", such as seabed and coastline, were owned legitimately by the royal family before the Crown Estate existed. Who did they buy them from, for how much and was the transaction freely entered into?

My late grandmother was born in Dyrham Park, Avon, now owned for the public by

the National Trust. In view of the proposed returning of the Crown Estate to the royal family, can I have Dyrham back?
Guy Linley-Adams,
Marston First Cottage,
Marston Stannett,
Rishbury, Leominster,
Herefordshire HR5 8BU.

THERE were two symbolic acts that help promote dominance in society. The first is the law of primogeniture and the second, the procedure within the ceremony of marriage where a man (usually the bride's father) gives away a woman (the bride) to another man (the groom) as though a possession.

Now that Buckingham Palace appears to be giving a lead perhaps Lambeth Palace may wish to join in with this current establishment enthusiasm for ensuring that the status of women is equal.

Adrian Lewis,
21 Paxton Road,
London W4 2QT.

YOUR editorial (A monarchy in trouble, August 20) castigates politicians for the illegality of their approach to the future of the monarchy yet falls into the same trap itself. A hereditary monarchy is indefensible under a democratic system, regardless of what powers are granted to the monarch. The only legitimate reform of the monarchy is its abolition, and the debate should not be distorted by emotive talk of "1,000 years of history".

Matthew Burchell,
Combe Drove, the far side,
Brompton Ralph,
Tunton,
Somerset TA4 2RZ.

Sir Frederick's apron strings

IT HAS been stated that Sir Frederick Crawford's membership of the Masons would have been "common knowledge" before his appointment as chairman of the Criminal Cases Review Authority.

As one involved with the committee making his earlier appointment to Aston University, I can affirm that his masonic connections were not known to me, nor, I suspect, to most of the committee.

In his defence it should be stated that his membership did not appear to have a discernible effect on his policy as vice-chancellor, but as a non-mason, I would not have noticed, would I?

S E Hunt,
Professor Emeritus,
University of Aston,
8 Rock Hill Road,
Christchurch,
Dorset BH23 4DZ.

ALL miscarriages of justice contain masonic connections. Masons will probably be among the trial judges and appeal judges. They will be among the lawyers preparing the case and the prosecuting team. The police investigators will certainly have masons in their team.

Michal Higham (Please could you stop picking on us Masons, August 17) writes, "Sir Frederick will know that if a situation arises in which there is a minimal perception that Freemasonry might be involved, he must declare an interest and withdraw." Sir Frederick will be required to withdraw in every case.

John Thompson,
28 West Street,
Newport NP23 4DD.

AS A long-standing Freemason and reader of your newspaper, I am saddened by your "elite Mason" headlines. Not only are you banging the same old conspiracy theory drum but the ritual vow you quote is factually inaccurate. In the Holy Royal Arch, lodges are known as chapters and brothers as companions.

It is quite astonishing that you should make such an error of fact when I'm sure that some of your staff who are Freemasons would have put you right.

E H Shepherd,
19 Moore Avenue,
Thetford, Warrington,
Cheshire WA4 2JN.

MAY I suggest that the easiest way to avoid appointing a Freemason to chair a public body is to appoint a woman?

Sheila Smith,
The Bookstore,
In-Shops Shopping Centre,
Chester-le-Street,
Co Durham DH3 3AY.

How to scale the Korean Wall

Harsh measures against the students are an anachronism

THE SIGHT of riot police doing pitched battle with thousands of students at Yonsei University does not mesh easily with South Korea's international image. In the age of Asian tigers, Seoul is committed to the goal of *segyehwa* — globalisation — and the building of a "borderless world". Yet the problem of the North-South border only a few dozen miles from Seoul continues to dominate its politics. Last week's national day address by President Kim Young-sam was entirely devoted to the theme of division. South Korea might have become the world's 11th largest economy, he said, and be able to win medals in Atlanta. Yet the Korean miracle would remain incomplete until the whole country could be reunited, creating a nation that "stands tall at the centre of the world". These are fine sentiments, but does Seoul really wish to see the barriers along the 38th parallel — the Berlin Wall of Asia — fall and the country become one?

The students at Yonsei University have also been arguing in favour of unification, but they do not believe that the government has any serious intention of bridging the gap with the North. Mr Kim has accused them of putting Pyongyang's case for it and says they are a threat to national security. With the north beset by economic decline, floods and near-famine, and probably by internal dissension too, this may seem a strange moment for the students to choose. But the arrest so far this week of 5,500 protestors suggests that

they are not just being "duped by northern agents." Student protest may no longer attract the popular support which it once did in the 1980s during the struggle for democracy. But it does express, in an extreme form, the sense of national incompleteness felt by many Koreans, and it focuses attention upon the ambiguities of official policy towards the North.

Mr Kim spoke last week of the need for peaceful cooperation with the North and a "practical" solution to the problem of division. Yet on Monday the South's armed forces launched a set of war games based on the unlikely theory that the North's difficulties may lead Pyongyang to attack the South whether openly or by terrorism. Also on Monday, the South Korean novelist Kim Hah-ki was arrested for breaking the South's national security law which bans all unauthorised contacts with the North. This was a Kafkaesque conclusion to a bizarre episode in which Mr Kim crossed into the North, apparently under the influence of alcohol, and was returned by Pyongyang after apologising for his "grave crime."

The task now — admittedly a difficult one — should be to build new bridges to the North. Berlin is the wrong model: the last thing which President Kim wants is northern chaos and millions of refugees heading south. Harsh action against the students and anyone seeking contact is now an anachronism which sends entirely the wrong signal to the shaky regime in Pyongyang.

Picture show

WHO else sees the purchase of the painting by Guercino for £2 million for the National Galleries of Scotland as yet another contemptible misuse of public funds (Last ditch pledge rescues painting, August 15)?

Such action arises from a ruinous Cartesian way of seeing, which exerts a stranglehold throughout society. This ideology splits reality into senses, form/function, art/life etc. It promotes a stultifying art-for-art's-sake aestheticism, which divorces art from its socio-cultural, ideological context. It also bars development of a framework for judging, on inter-subjective, testable grounds, the real creative worth of our artefacts.

When education, health and the environment are starved of cash, where is this lunatic acquisitiveness going to stop? Like an Easter Island proliferation of false gods, it is a vicious circle which will, unless checked, denude and bankrupt all.

David Rodway,
11 Cumberland Street,
London SW1V 4LS.

WHILE I agree with the general thrust of Roy Greenslade's article about a decline in broadcast journalism because it mixes fact and fiction (Feeling a little off-colour, Media, August 19), he himself has fallen into the same trap.

Contrary to Greenslade's insinuation about the Jinnah film, the finance is in place and pre-production has begun. I am not the producer, but the co-producer and co-writer of the film.

Greenslade is sarcastic about my "high-minded" attempt to re-evaluate Mr Jinnah in an attempt to further understanding between Islam and the West. This is my field and I have written over 20 books on the subject.

Akbar Ahmed,
Fellow,
Selwyn College,
Cambridge CB3 9DQ.

A crisis of identity

WHY not let us choose which flags we want on each of our identity cards (Major to settle identity card row, August 19)? A three-tier system of up to three flags would enable an individual to identify, or not, with the European Union, the United Kingdom and/or its constituent nations. For example, a Scottish Nationalist European would select the flags of St Andrew and the EU stars, omitting the Union Jack.

This would also encourage the English to differentiate between England, or Engerland, and the United Kingdom. Finally, it would provide an accurate and constant demographic test as to the strength of the British and European Unions in the feelings and beliefs of its next millennium.

"But why have flags on it at all?" says my missus. I agree.

David Fine,
4 Pickford Villas,
Monyash Road,
Bahwell DE45 1FG.

God shop

MOST women are demoralised when their partners undertake a supermarket food-shopping trip. But those of us who have read the history of Fiselwood Mac (Return from the far side, Review, August 16) should be having second thoughts on the matter. In 1971, guitarist Jeremy Spencer, claiming that he was "just popping out for some groceries," joined the Children of God religious cult in Los Angeles and wasn't seen again for two years.

Fiona Hills,
58a North Hill,
London N6 4RE.

A Country Diary

CHESHIRE: The path along the river through the willow ground and the alder carr in the southern woods was lined on both sides by an impenetrable green wall of Himalayan Balsam. Reaching a height of seven feet in places it was an imposing sight with row upon row of stout, thick-ribbed stems and a dazzling array of colours from the large helmet-shaped flowers — whites, reds and purples. Each plant was thronged by small bees which would disappear into the head of a flower, attracted by the nectar held in a short, thin spur, and reappear coated white with pollen dust. I was nearly at the end of this balsam "tunnel" when a much larger flying insect approached to investigate: a southern hawkfly. This large aestiva dragonfly, well known for its inquisitive and approachable nature, hovered in front of me then turned and flew back down the path. It did this several times as I continued walking,

New light on old stones

SPECULATION that the Government is about to resurrect the damaging "grey route" at Stonehenge (August 16) underlines the need for debate on greater local protection for such Unesco-designated world heritage sites. It is starting to realise that quarrying was allowed until relatively recently at Hadrian's Wall, while an intrusive road-bridge near the 200-year-old Ironbridge was only prevented at the 11th hour by the then Environment Secretary.

Perhaps we need a European legal framework in which Stonehenge and the other 13 UK sites would enjoy special protection linked to European Union funding.

Local authorities are already in partnership with English Heritage developing comprehensive management plans at some world heritage sites. What is also needed is a

Clearer view from government

clearer view from government on the significance of our UK sites, backed by a willingness to protect them from inappropriate development.

(Cliff) Philip,
Chair, UK Local Authorities World Heritage Sites Forum,
PO Box 213, Telford TF3 4LD.

INSTEAD of a bogus memorial in a capital city stuffed full of genuine monuments, let our millennial celebration be the restoration of Stonehenge to its splendid isolation by means of the tunnel bypass. £200 million is a small price to pay to rescue the world's most famous stone circle, and 1,500,000 visitors a year paying £3 each for admission would recoup the outlay in just over 44 years: a tiny fraction of the 44 years.

Tony Walton,
Lansdowne Place,
Hove, E Sussex, BN3 1HE.

For services to the Tory party

How do new Lords Saatchi and Gummer enrich the House?

THE better things first: it will be good to have Richard Rogers in the Lords; we need people there who can talk cogently and from experience about the built environment. Also the sassy Liz Symons from the First Division Association of civil servants. And if few have heard of Meta Ramsey — a John Smith discovery — that could soon change. The bleak record of her career — HM Diplomatic Service 1969-91 — disguises the fact that she served in MI6 and was once tipped to head it. John Taylor, unacceptable to too many Cheltenham Tories four years ago because he wasn't local (ie he was black) gets some recompense for failing to win the seat at that election; disturbing, though, if he is taking the ermine because he no longer expects nomination for a winnable Tory seat.

But on what test precisely do Maurice Saatchi, leading adman, and Peter Gummer, leading PR man and brother

of the more famous John, qualify? What service have they done or will they do to the state that makes them right for seats in the Lords? We know what service they have done to the Tory Party, thank you: Maurice Saatchi goes all the way back to Britain Isn't Working, and with Gummer and Sir Tim Bell, all the way forward to New Labour, New Danger, and staring satanic eyes. As they're to be working peers, no one has to pretend they have been chosen in the national interest; which is just as well, since they'd only pass that test for those who equate the national interest with the Tory interest. But how very convenient, to be able to reward those who do your party's work — sometimes its dirty work — with a seat in the Lords! It isn't the first time: some of Harold Wilson's choices fell into this category. But this sort of thing doesn't do much for the House's reputation. Or for John Major's.

كلمة من الرجل

Diary

Matthew Norman

THE world of newspapers welcomes a new and vastly prolific correspondent. He is David-John Collins, and his name appears ever more frequently (in this paper and the Independent) above an address in Tunbridge Wells - aptly so, since he is always disgusted by all who disagree with the Labour leadership. Yesterday's Guardian letter was one of five (it would be too cynical to muse on orchestration) attacking Roy Hattersley for his hostility to Mandy Mandelson, of whom he wrote: "Labour is extremely fortunate to have someone of his ability, dedication and integrity..." Indeed, other recent letters from New Disgusted, New Tunbridge, have been identical attacks on opponents of welfare reform, and of Jack Straw's toddler curfew. But who can he be, this tough old bruiser? A disaffected Tory? A reformer? A victim, perhaps, of militant? Not quite. Would you believe it, it's a New Labour weenle Barely 22, and from the University, Deejay is a Conservative researcher for Coventry MP Jim Cunningham... and although it won't have crossed his mind, much more of this and he'll be talent-spotted by Mandy. We will be watching his career with immense interest.

NO! magazine, Brandreth's Brainstorm moves on to a new plain of obtuseness. What, asks the MP for Chester, do TV stars Amanda Rice, Jasper Carrott, and Sean Bean have in common? Thinking caps off, Giles! But here's one for you. Which of your fellow Tory MPs is justly regarded as your intellectual equal? (See below.)

YES, that's right, it's Dame Jill Knight!!! With her victory over a handgun ban fresh in the mind, we turn to About The House, the Edgbaston MP's political memoirs. A woman of myriad talents (her technical mastery of embryology is famed), it is her intrigue which will most intrigue the public. We begin with recollections from her first days at Westminster in 1966. "In those days," writes Dame Jill, "it was possible for me to park my car outside, and give the Night Porter a signpost to put in the parking meter at half past eight in the morning." How riveting... but, do go on. "By this means I was assured of legitimate parking up to 8.45am, by which time I needed to be off anyway..." Snuggled in a seat for one day, next time, we hear how Dame Jill coped when she once got a key stuck in the front door of her Lambeth house.

In the Daily Mail, the need for any constitutional relaunch of the monarchy has been dismissed in splendid style by no less an expert than sane and rational Paul Johnson himself. "Yes, Her Majesty has indeed seen the article," said a source close to the Queen yesterday. "and has taken note of Mr Johnson's argument. Accordingly, the relaunch has now been made a matter of even greater urgency..."

RAISE for Harold Brooks-Jaker's Burke's Peerage World Book of... service continues to remind us of other mailing triumphs. Yesterday it was the motor manufacturer's mail shot (a Mr P Charles of Buckingham Palace was invited to "impress your neighbours" with a brand new Rover); today, we go back to just before the last general election, and a drive to recruit old-age pensioners. "Now that your work and life is time on your hands, you might think of beginning to take an interest in the Conservative party..." said a leaflet delivered to Mrs D Thatcher of Dulwich.

FOR chunky chums such as armed forces minister Fatty Cheatham and publisher Orton, a glimmer of hope comes from Houston, Texas. Pastor Terry Miller has devised a divine weight-loss programme, in which God - having been thanked for "the victories ahead" - at the start of each session - is called upon to "be with us when we face that refrigerator..."



Royal role for the Prince of Darkness

Commentary Catherine Bennett

FOR the dedicated republican, this country's remarkable advances in academic excellence are a source of constant anxiety. With so many brainy people about, is there not a danger that, sooner or later, the royal family might run into one of them? Who knows but that one day, some beady young meritocrat may not be taken on the palace staff, even given an opportunity to advise the Windsors on public relations? The antics of the Way Ahead group suggest that such fears are, so far, unfounded. The Windsors prefer to make DIY improvements. Their survival-committee may sound like a radical splinter group, but the modish occupation of thinking the unthinkable, but in composition it turns out to be no more than a family get-together, supplemented by a handful of old favourites. The Earl of Arlisle (Eton, the Scots Guards) is not, I think, known for his radicalism, nor is Sir Robert Fellowes (Eton, the

never willingly abandon it." So, how could the public be mollified? What kind of sop would simultaneously placate the mob, contumacious republicans, and guarantee the wealth and status of the monarchy? The current scheme is majestically deficient in virtually every respect. For royalists, it gives too much away. Those of a mystic turn object that the severance of crown from Church would wantonly destroy the aura of sanctity which surrounds each institution, and rapidly de-hallow both. To radicals, the proposals are patently inadequate and self-serving. In exchange for modest modernisation, the Windsors believe they can retain all that is most undemocratic and unjustified: supreme constitutional powers, claimed by accident of birth. As for the Queen's subjects, they now know what most did not know before: that much of her "personal" wealth is not really hers, but ours. The proposal to live off the crown estate instead of the civil list is plainly a racket, a ruse, or as the Sun neatly put it, "Queen's \$54m jackpot". This was all quite unnecessary. Neither political party threatens the well-being of the monarchy, indeed the Labour front bench will play any MP who dares to suggest that all is not for the best in this best of all possible royal families. Nor is the public

among the worst in the world (63 per cent are foreign-owned; more, if you count Lord Rothermere's living in Paris). The tabloid press is without doubt plus royale que le roi, for the Sun, Mirror and Star, to say nothing of the News of the World, depend for their profits on the exploitation of the royals whether they be toe-sucking vulgarians, or as upright as the Queen Mother. In 1940, the King and Queen, who had refused to be driven out of London by the Luftwaffe, toured the East End to inspect the bomb damage. They spoke to a Jewish tailor who, so it was said at the time, advised the monarch "to put the Empire in the wife's name". After 17 years of Tory government, I do not take so gloomy a view of the nation's prospects. Even if there were to be a United States of Europe (which I favour) - the monarchy would stand for the identity of the British people. Closet republicans, and only few of them have as yet "come out", are careful never to address themselves to the problem of who should succeed as President of Great Britain. Show it to be Mr Alistair Goodlad (the Government Chief Whip), Sir Edward du Cann or Mr Terry Venables? A Head of State would need a good pair of calves (silk stockings being obligatory), be tall so as not to look ridiculous in a top hat and, most important of all, a home life over which hovered no breath of scandal. Could we ever agree upon such a paragon, and, if we could, would not his menials be a considerable drain upon the exchequer? Mr Roy Hattersley is beyond ambition, while Mr Gerald Kaufmann, who is staying on at Westminster, is not. I have a nasty feeling that certain people win the day, King Charles III would have to make way for Lord Archer of Burnham-on-Crouch.

Way Ahead debacle achieves nothing else, it will surely convince the royal family of the need for professional help. There can be only one candidate: Peter Mandelson. Traditional courtiers might feel threatened by his associations with what used to be the Labour Party, but they will discover that his record as a monarchist is unimpeachable. In 1992, I had the good fortune to find Mr Mandelson watching a television report on the end of the Yorks' marriage. Amid the general sniggering, he asked, with a catch in his voice, "Am I the only one who feels sympathy for them?" Later that year he said that Andrew Morton's (accurate) book about Princess Diana showed there were "no longer any boundaries between fact and fiction in royal reporting". In 1994, he offered to refit the royal yacht in Hartlepool, adding, "I've discussed this personally with Her Majesty the Queen." More recently, he denounced the criticism of Prince Charles as "objectionable". If there are any lingering doubts, the Windsors should consult a newspaper article called Les A New Image Rise From The Ashes in which Mandelson all but volunteered for the post of Prince Charles's spin doctor. "An elementary grasp of media relations must be part and parcel of the activities of a high-profile advocate of change," he cautioned. "Remember the way in which his weighty speech on French architecture was overshadowed by some sill, remarks about chess?" With Mandelson shaping the Way Ahead, there could be no such confusion. The cheese would be cleared away. And if, as his detractors say, Mandelson prefers to work in secrecy, so much the better. As we all now know, "we must not let in daylight upon magic." The Prince of Darkness would see to that.

What people really talk about is the breathtaking Prattishness of the middling Windsors

The offences of the monarchy, but invariably flounders when asked what should fill the conspicuous vacuum it would leave behind. Even the independent on Sunday, when it bravely declared itself for "the final triumph of the people", could only conclude, somewhat lamely, that "we shall try to take the debate further and to explore how a British republic might work". A subsequent reader's letter must not let in daylight upon magic. The Prince of Darkness would see to that.

Julian Critchley urges modest reforms to secure the monarchy, while above, Catherine Bennett thinks the royals need a spin-doctor to save them from themselves

Tricks of the trade

UNTIL I saw Tony Benn on the telly the other night I thought Charles Dilke to be the last prominent politician to be a republican. It was, of course Tony Benn (there was more to his name in those days) who, as Postmaster General in the first Wilson government, changed our postage stamps. As one gaudy edition followed upon another we have become the Tamu Tuvo of the developed world. How long will it be before Alan Shearer shares a stamp with the diminutive head of the sovereign? Perhaps Clem Attlee was right when he remarked that any Labour MP who expressed republican views was "a lightweight". I suppose it is extraordinary that in the Age of the Common Man, there should still be a royal family whose task it is to represent a sense of historical continuity, and to speak to, and for, the nation in times of festivity and crisis. I can remember the Queen being proclaimed monarch at a small ceremony at Carfax in Oxford in 1952. Our newspapers, at that time British owned, all wrote of a "New Elizabethan Age". I can remember taking much notice in those far-off days we were more interested in girls, the weekly tutorial and the promise of a glittering Union career that would lead inevitably to Downing Street. The first two were my concerns; the third that of the young Michael Heseltine. I think it sensible that the royal family should now be thinking seriously of the changes that will be necessary to sustain it to the 21st century. Disestablishment seems reasonable enough. The Prince has already spoken of being the Defender of the Faith. A catholic marriage would stop Roman Catholics feeling second-class citizens, and I would have no objection to an eldest daughter succeeding to the throne. The end of the civil list would appease those who begrudge the monarchy a



penny on the curious grounds that the Queen is the richest woman in Britain. In fact, she is not. The richest woman in Britain is Betty Granchester, widow of Lord Granchester, and the principal shareholder in Littlewoods, the largest private company in the British Isles. God Save the Pools. It is a pity that we have been obliged by events to choose between Prince Charles and Diana. The heir to the throne seems to be descended from Albert the Good, in that he is an intellectual who would feel quite at home in the pages of the Guardian. He has little in common with Victoria's wicked uncle, Diana on the other hand, if her Panorama broadcast is any guide, is as daft as a brush, but a darned sight better-looking. I do not blame her for taking out an injunction against certain unpleasant photographers, whose persecution of both the infamous and famous should be brought speedily to an end. But to say that it is to raise the question of our newspapers, which are

A soap opera in church

Paul Webster on the hunger-strikers who have united the glamorous and the good

AT PARIS'S Saint-Bernard church, the Abbot and his brethren queued up over the weekend to offer their mediatic support to 10 African hunger-strikers whose official residence given the official residence papers has developed into a political soap opera. Yesterday was the 49th day that the men from Mali, led by Babakar Diop, have lain motionless in their sleeping bags while photographers push and shove to catch contrasts between the frail protesters

and showbiz supporters. Among them the actress Emmanuelle Béart and the theatre director Ariane Mnouchkine have followed in the wake of charity superstars like the former bishop of Evreux, Jacques Gaillot, and Abbé Pierre, veteran fighter for the homeless, rehabilitated after abject apoplexy for suspected anti-semitism. Famous faces have each been allotted a hunger striker to whom they will be handcauffed if police are despatched to repeat an earlier church expulsion

during five months of protest involving 300 other Malien sans-papiers: men, women and children. But so far, the most threatening violence in Saint-Bernard's occurred when Emmanuel Béart and the late president's widow, made a visit during which photographers trampled over the weakened black bodies in search of an emotional close-up. Outside the church, crowds are getting ever bigger, sensing that France is about to go through a trauma. The Malians, backed by their own embassies, have become the only worthwhile domestic front-page story in the August news drought.

Some of them have been fighting for 10 or 15 years for residence permits, feeling they are now integrated into French society despite arriving illegally. Most have jobs and families with children born in France. With a little diplomacy, their protest could have been shunted into oblivion at the beginning instead of developing into the most insoluble crisis the Gaullist-led government has faced since Jacques Chirac's election in last year. Jean-Louis Debré, the interior minister, has said he will never issue residence papers in case his action is seen as an invitation to other illegal settlers. He wants to ship out all the protesters in charter planes to show the extremist National Front electorate just how tough he is on immigration. But Mr

Chirac, holidaying on the Mediterranean, has refused to give the signal for forcible expulsion (perhaps wondering whether it would better if Mr Debré were shot), while allowing time for what was originally an extreme leftwing campaign to develop into a cause that has re-invigorated the orthodox opposition, uniting communists, socialists and trade unions in official condemnation of government heartlessness. Airline and travel agency staff have refused to cooperate with plans to set up charter flights, and even the police seem to have become uncooperative after receiving a bad press when they dragged the hunger strikers off to hospital last week. If they try that again, a few media stars could be attached to the protesters.

Step forward, all friends of the footnote



David McKie

WE MAY be about to witness the death of the footnote. Despite its many years of useful and versatile service, publishers in the United States are turning against it. Yet if footnotes disappear, authors will no longer be forced to state their sources, enabling others to check and challenge them. We need an organisation, called perhaps The Friends of the Footnote, to save this unique and valuable art-form from extinction. I am indebted for my information on the threat to the footnote to the foreign desk of the Guardian, which spotted a piece about it in the New York Times News Service. The origins of the footnote are unknown. The New York Times thinks it started with academic critics of Descartes, but the most likely, however, is Pierre Bayle, published an encyclopaedia in 1697 bursting not just with footnotes but with footnotes of footnotes. Though footnotes are most extensively deployed in academic works, they also appear in less predictable contexts. The nowadays largely unread Victorian novelist Edward Bulwer Lytton, for instance, peppered his historical adventures with footnotes designed to ward off attacks by real historians who treated such stuff with disdain. Thus in The Last of the Barons, the mention of an arras is immediately buttressed by a footnote arguing that the historian Hallam, who had publicly questioned whether such things existed in the reign of Edward IV, was in serious error. (For an instructive account of the use of whirligigoes in Britain before the reign of Richard II, see the footnote on page 427, op cit.) A recently published American novel, Infinite Jest by David Foster Wallace, has 388 footnotes spanning 96 pages. Footnotes in poems are rarer, but the otherwise deservedly obscure Victorian poet Edward Edwin Foot rarely launched a poem without an accompanying flotilla of footnotes. The campaign against footnotes, the New York Times suggests, gains much of its impetus from marketing people. "A lot of our authors are aiming at the general reader," Jennifer Snodgrass, marketing director of the Harvard University Press, is quoted as saying, "and our marketing department tells us

that footnotes scare off people." Though full of appeal for pedants, this kind of academic undergrowth is "odious", as Roy Jenkins would say, to the general reader. Does one ever see the hands of focus groups here? The possible disappearance of a whole unique art form is perhaps the most serious cultural danger of all. Like bats in caves, there are words which nowadays live almost entirely in the semi-darkness of footnotes. Ibiid (short for Ibiidem) is one. Denoting a reference to a work already quoted, a function also performed by op cit (work cited) and its cousin loc cit (much the same). Passim (throughout) is another favourite. The most lethal, however, is pace, a device used for putting down rivals who dare to reach conclusions contrary to one's own. For example: "as was long ago established, by rigorous investigation, night follows day, pace Hesseenthaler, who astonishingly in his Henry VII and the Genesis of Blur appears to believe that day follows night..." It cannot be said too strongly that one of the principal functions of footnotes is to do down one's academic competitors. Vicious battles are fought in death-dealing small print on these rarefied pages. The wounds are often most savage when the language implies little more than raising of eyebrows. "It will perhaps, surprise admirers of Mr Fester to find him asserting..." "Plunge into the pond politely": that is the watchword. Footnotes to footnotes: Authors love to express indebtedness in their footnotes, though only for minor discoveries; the big ones are all their own. They hope it gives the impression of scholarly generosity, though it's often a form of penance. Be wary, for instance, of the academic who says: "I owe this *apex* to my student, Geoffrey Tiddles." This usually means that Tiddles, who has come to the university for quite other purposes, has been wheeled/pressurised/blackmailed by his tutor to carry out his more boring bits of research. Even Wallace's efforts, however, are puny compared to a single footnote in The History of Northumberland by John Hodgson, published in 1840, which according to the New York Times ran for 165 pages. See also my "Taking the doggerel for a long walk" (Guardian, July 21)... One huge temptation of footnotes, rarely resisted, is the chance they offer an author to recommend all his other works on this and related subjects. One of Foot's poems begins: "The captain scans the ruffled zone!" The footnote explains: "A figurative expression, intended by the author to signify the horizon." Even the Friends of the Footnote, I think I can promise, will draw the line at items like that.

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Finance Guardian

Halifax rules out rate cuts

Teresa Hunter and Sarah Ryle

BRTAIN'S biggest mortgage lender, the Halifax, yesterday told borrowers that there would be no further cuts in interest rates, even if the cost of bank borrowing fell further.

which would probably be too small to trigger a mortgage rate cut. I don't honestly think another cut would make any difference to the housing market.

Further jobs to go as society wields axe

MORE job cuts are on the way at the Halifax after Britain's biggest mortgage lender said yesterday that it intended to stamp out "old Spanish practices" in its head office and trim the branch network further, writes Teresa Hunter.

only around 100 staff have opted for voluntary redundancy so far. But we could never say we will never impose compulsory job losses.

strength of the personal sector failed to drive up the overall measure of broad money (M4) in the economy, published by the Bank of England yesterday.

City analysts said the easing removed one of the Bank of England's key objections to an interest rate cut and renewed speculation that the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, will lower base rates in the

Patience a virtue for hi-tech fans



Edited by Mark Milner

STOCK markets have trouble with high-techology companies. One day they can be flavour of the moment and their share prices are soaring, the next the market suddenly gets cold feet over sky-high multiples and the share prices come plummeting back.

The initial stock market reaction was less understanding, however. The shares slipped 10p at one point, not least because the dividend had been boosted a mere 120 per cent to 5.5p, rather than the 6p or 7p some forecasters had been expecting.

Tough at the top

THE Halifax is Britain's biggest mortgage lender. Over the past six months, however, something rather odd has happened, according to the latest figures, the society which provides around one in five mortgages saw its share of the new-loans market drop.



Reach for the sky... Robert Ayling, BA chief executive, before giving his speech in Sydney, Australia, yesterday

'Open skies' deal will pave way to merger, says BA chief

BRITISH Airways' chief executive, Bob Ayling, yesterday rejected suggestions that talks between Britain and the US next week on a new "open skies" agreement between the two countries would collapse, writes Keith Harper.

up competition as a condition for approving the planned merger of BA and American Airlines — and expressed optimism that, if the competition American went ahead, the merger would start on April 1 next year.

to refer the merger to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The Office of Fair Trading, which is investigating the deal, is still preparing its report for the Trade and Industry Secretary, Ian Lang. He is under pressure from Cabinet colleagues not to go to the Monopolies Commission.

global airlines, and he expected it to be Qantas, in which BA has a 25 per cent share.

LIFFE man is borrowed to foil copper scandal

Dan Atkinson

THE London Metal Exchange, shaken by scandals in the copper market, has hired a new-look consultant to help it through the next six months, the Guardian has learned.

The SIB is believed to approve of Mr Foyle's temporary attachment, although it did not suggest it. His expertise in surveillance, contract design and market monitoring will be of obvious value during the SIB's investigation.

China ousts Japan as US deficit foe

Martin Walker in Washington

ABENCHMARK was the trade last month when, for the first time, the trade deficit with China surpassed the traditional deficit with Japan.

China's trading practices, politically controversial since Mr Clinton's decision to extend Most Favoured Nation trading status, could play an important role in the US presidential election campaign.

The dollar was at almost 108 yen in early New York trading yesterday, compared to its postwar low of 79.75 yen in April 1995.

America's overall trade deficit narrowed dramatically in June as imports fell by the largest amount in five years, reflecting an export boom that is the biggest source of growth in the economy.

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS

Australia 1.90	France 2.5975	Italy 2.296	Singapore 2.1275
Austria 15.67	Germany 2.2300	Malta 0.5360	South Africa 6.95
Belgium 46.64	Greece 359.40	Netherlands 2.2500	Spain 136.25
Canada 0.77	Hong Kong 11.84	New Zealand 2.17	Sweden 10.075
Ceylon 0.0910	India 35.01	Norway 9.6775	Switzerland 1.20
Denmark 0.0650	Ireland 0.9350	Portugal 229.50	Taiwan 122.24
Finland 6.85	Israel 4.00	Saudi Arabia 5.76	USA 1.5100

Britons stressed from overwork

Chris Barrie

EXTRA hours, heavier workloads and greater responsibilities are afflicting Britons at work, and all for no extra pay.

Objective problems of poor pay, management, workloads and hours. Stress, the report says, "is an understandable response to an overwhelming amount of work".

The research also emphasises the decline in the influence of trade unions. More than twice as many people opt for their manager, rather than their union rep, as the person best placed to solve problems.

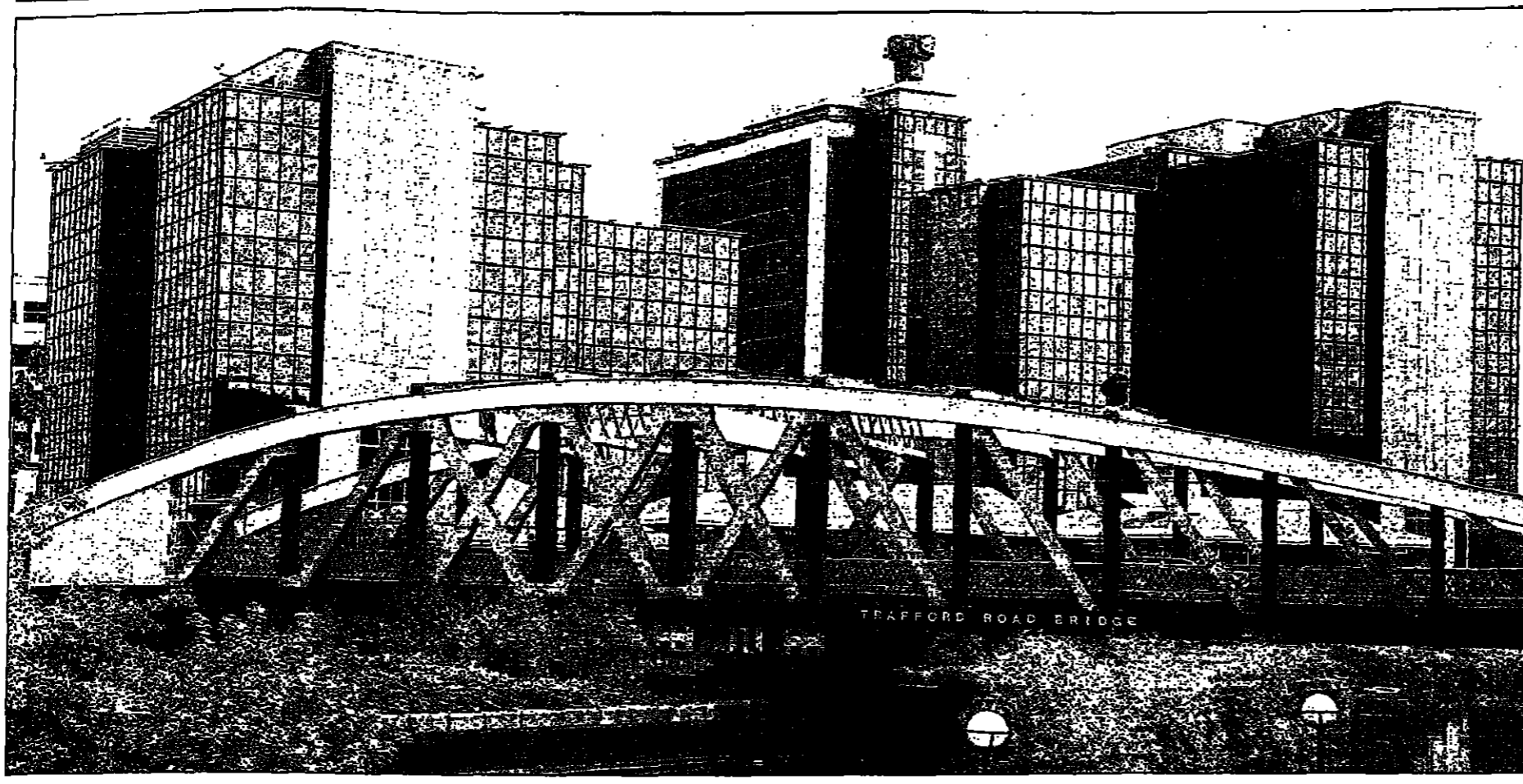
Not surprisingly, many employees dwell on the prospects of changing jobs. Over a quarter think about this "frequently or constantly", and the same proportion say it will be their decision to quit that will be the most likely reason for them to leave.

A great stride for trousers

Dan Atkinson reports on Levi's latest plan to dress up the jean market

STAFF at the trendier workplaces need agonise no longer over whether to Dress Up for the job or (especially on Fridays) to Dress Down. Now, thanks to Levi Strauss & Co, they can.

Slats every morning, it could be rewarded by annual sales of \$1.9 billion in the US alone.



Bridge over troubled water... Trafford Park today, with smaller companies taking the place of the great factories of yesteryear

PHOTOGRAPH: DON McPHEE

Region fails to punch its weight

PATCHWORK PROGRESS/ The North-west economy is expanding too slowly, and will only catch up if it can attract a higher level of inward investment, writes Martyn Halsall

THE North-west, heartland of the first industrial revolution, is struggling to keep abreast of an improving national economy and to thrive in the international market place.

"We have not punched our weight," said Terry Thomas, managing director of the Co-operative Bank. "We should bring in levels of investment comparable with areas like the North-east and South Wales — but we have not, for years and years."

Mr Thomas, who surveys the North-west's economy from the bank's headquarters in central Manchester, was unveiling a revolution — the resignation of the entire board of inward, the regional investment agency, in the most sweeping changes since its foundation in 1985.

Behind the move, which was agreed within Inward but effectively involves its takeover by a more comprehensive body, lie reports of anxiety about the agency's performance. Critics are said to include the government's office in the North-west and the Invest in Britain Bureau, which holds a 40 per cent stake in the agency.

Driving the changes is the North-west Partnership, founded two years ago to encourage cohesion. The North-west has dozens of agencies effectively competing in the increasingly competitive inward investment arena.

The 7 million people in

the fastest growing region. Larger firms, employing more than 500 people, are the main sources of job losses. Smaller companies are employing more people. Manufacturing, once the mainstay of the region, is forecast to achieve growth of 26 per cent, but to suffer a 13 per cent fall in employment. The fate of Trafford Park industrial estate in Manchester is symptomatic: in its post-war heyday 75,000 people worked in its huge factories. By the early 1980s the workforce was down to 25,000 and today it is 43,000, employed by 1,300 companies.

Unemployment ranged, in 1995, from 6.4 per cent in Lancashire to 12.3 per cent on Merseyside, against a national average of 8.1 per cent. On inward investment the Partnership's economic strategy report said: "The

North-west is still seriously underachieving relative to most of the rest of the UK." Forecasts predict slower job growth across all employment sectors, compared with the UK average, up to 2005, and the worst GDP growth rate of any UK region apart from Northern Ireland.

The region, with an economy larger than four EU countries, has three big advantages in its drive to attract investment: space, finance and geography.

Basil Jevda, Inward's managing director, said the region could not compete for major projects needing more than 150 acres because of a lack of suitable sites.

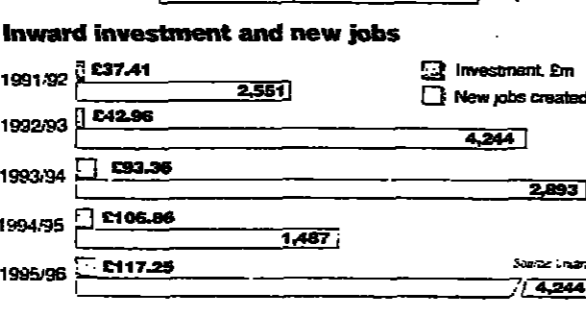
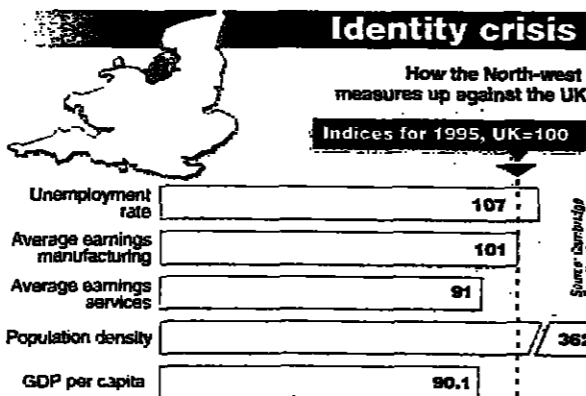
LG, the South Korean electronics group that recently made Europe's largest inward investment in South Wales, was a dramatic example. "I think we were in the frame for about 30 minutes, until they realised we didn't have a large enough site," said Mr Jevda.

Inward initially offered two sites to Toyota in 1988, but eight years later they were still not available. Toyota invested millions of pounds in Derby.

The problem of geography may prove more intractable. The North-west, stretching from the Cheshire plain to the Scottish border and with an economy ranging from sheep farming to futuristic nuclear technology, suffers from an identity crisis.

Mr Jevda claims Inward has an enviable record of attracting inward investment compared with competitor agencies. Latest results, published last month, claimed a record 4,244 direct jobs came from 31 investment projects and £117 million of direct investment in the past year.

Tomorrow: The South-west



A hard day's night... workers flood from a factory at Trafford Park in the 1990s

PHOTOGRAPH: DON McPHEE

Investors mustn't get the pip with Orange

Outlook

Nicholas Bannister

HANS Snook, Orange's managing director, is perplexed. When Orange was floated five months ago, investors were buying into the mobile phone group as if there were no tomorrow.

Now the shares are languishing way below the offer price, and yesterday's good first-half results lifted them by only a few pence.

"We have been hitting all the assumptions which the analysts built into their models at the time of the flotation," Mr Snook said.

He blamed the low share price on the American market's recent disenchantment with high-technology stocks and investors' failure to understand all the elements which drove the business.

This will be of little comfort to those people who bought into Orange at the offer price of 250p a share. The issue was 10 times oversubscribed and the shares soared to 240p within days, before peaking at 253p. Those who failed to get out in those heady early days are now nursing losses of 12p a share.

However, they cannot complain that Orange was a loss-making company with a limited operating history in a highly competitive industry,

and went on to spell out the risk factors over 10 pages. In fact Orange has done well during the first half of 1996. The number of subscribers rose by 194,000 to 573,000 — almost double the growth rate during the first half of 1995. Since then subscribers have topped 600,000.

Average revenue per customer rose from £44 for the 12 months to December 1995 to £46 for the year to the end of June 1996. The rolling annual churn rate, reflecting the loss of customers, fell from 18.1 per cent in 1995 to 17.6 per cent, which is well below the industry average.

First-half turnover jumped from £100 million to £256.5 million and the net loss before tax rose from £88.8 million to £123.2 million, reflecting the sudden — but expected — growth in the business. The group is confident that it will meet analysts' forecasts of break-even by 1998 or 1999.

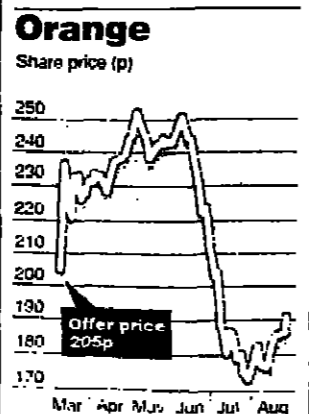
Mr Snook's confidence in the growth of the mobile phone business remains unchecked. He expects the number of mobile phone users to rise to seven million by the end of the year, and predicts that dual-mode digital handsets, capable of switching between the GSM standard, used by Cellnet and Vodafone, and the PCN standard, used by Orange and Mercury One-2-One, will be available in the first half of next year.

The collapse in Orange's share price since its flotation highlights the problem the market has in valuing high-technology companies which are incurring huge losses as they invest heavily to build their businesses.

The analysts constructed complex economic models both for Orange and the big cable companies, which were also some years away from profitability when they came to the market. It now appears that some of these were not up to the task.

It seems that the models failed to take adequate account of market sentiment. A couple of poor results from big hi-tech companies in the United States left investors questioning a lot of assumptions.

On closer examination Orange was obviously a company which was not as mature as some had hoped. But the climate is right and it will surely ripen over time.



Monks give blessing to sale of their pottery firm

A COMMUNITY of Benedictine monks has sold its £1 million a year pottery business for an undisclosed sum.

The monks at Fountains Abbey near Gloucester, who put their business on the market three months ago after "a number of difficult years' trading", clinched a deal with Welsh Porcelain of Maesteg, a subsidiary of Hereditas Ltd of Kirkby Stephen in Cumbria.

The pottery employs 27 people and exports to more than 20 countries.

The Abbot, Fr Francis Baird, said of the deal yesterday: "We hope it will be beneficial to our community and our present staff."

The 30-strong monastic community sold after realising that major investment was needed to upgrade machinery and marketing.

John May, a director of Welsh Porcelain, forecast that the takeover would lead to extra jobs for local people.

He said the operation would continue at the abbey in full co-operation with the monks.

Mr May said: "I was very perturbed when I heard a business with such a fine reputation might go under."

His message to staff was: "I can assure them that their jobs are totally secure."

Prinknash Pottery began just over 50 years ago, using clay from the abbey site on the edge of the Cotswold hills.

Its black and gold wine goblets and pewter-glazed ware became top-selling UK favourites, but the recession hit the business hard.

Watchdog hits out at electricity generators

Chris Barrie
Business Correspondent

THE electricity generators National Power and PowerGen should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for failing to pass on the benefits of falling costs to consumers, an industry watchdog said yesterday.

Accusing the two of being over-powerful, Ken Prior, chairman of the committee made up of the heads of the regional electricity consumer committees, said National Power should be broken up to foster competition.

He said the committee would ask the industry regulator Professor Stephen Littlechild to cut the influence wielded by National Power and PowerGen in the Electricity Pool, the wholesale market in England and Wales.

Mr Prior also wants an end to payments to power stations that do not produce electricity while on stand-by. He said regional electricity companies had little incentive to drive down generating prices because they were free to pass these costs on to consumers.

PowerGen, he said, had cut costs by 40 per cent. But the benefits of these efficiency savings had yet to be felt by consumers. Doubting that Professor Littlechild had sufficient power to curb their influence, Mr Prior forecast that an MMC reference would be needed.

National Power and PowerGen will account for 26 per cent and 24 per cent respectively of the electricity market in England and Wales next year. By contrast the nuclear generators will account for 30 per cent.

National Power said it found Mr Prior's remarks "surprising", given that the MMC had only recently concluded the generating market would soon be competitive.

PowerGen said its prices to regional companies had fallen by 22 per cent in real terms since 1990. The company added that the generating market was "highly competitive, with more than 20 players bidding into the Pool".

Speaking at the launch of the annual report of the committee chairman, Mr Prior praised Professor Littlechild

for cracking down on profits at National Grid, the transmission company, and said electricity bills had fallen from an annual average of £335 to £280.

But Mr Prior and Peter Weston, outgoing deputy chairman, attacked executive salaries in the industry. Mr Weston said he and some colleagues regarded salary levels as "ridiculous" because regional electricity companies made most profit from distribution monopolies and comparisons with companies operating in a competitive world were not appropriate.

Mr Prior, a former executive in the oil industry, described the policy of the remuneration committee at Southern Electric — the company which serves his region — as "just amateurish".

Warning that about five regional electricity companies would be identified by the consumer watchdogs as market liberalisation in 1998, Mr Prior added: "Now is the time for these chaps to earn their keep."

He dismissed as "brinkmanship" suggestions that competition in domestic supplies may have to be phased

'Now is the time for these chaps to earn their keep'

— Ken Prior, consumer champion, challenging electricity chiefs' salaries in run-up to liberalisation

in from April. He said the industry had, in some cases, been more concerned to protect its position than to foster competition.

In their report the consumer watchdogs call for higher performance targets and tougher penalties for failing to meet them. They also want that ageing systems need urgent investment.

Noting that rural areas were especially prone to interruptions in supply, Mr Weston said Labour had been warned not to impose a windfall tax on the utilities in a way that would endanger investment.

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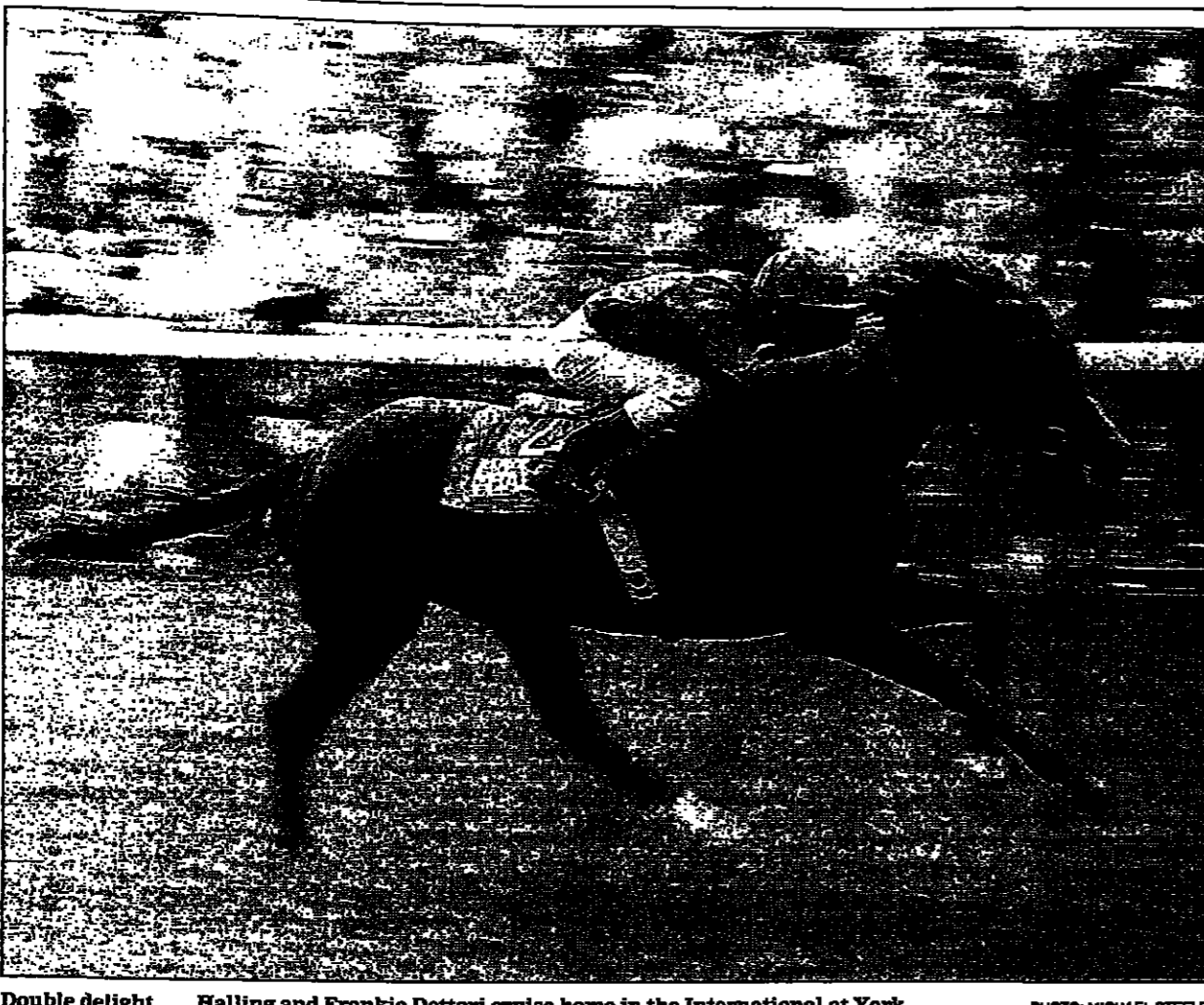
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Double delight... Halling and Frankie Dettori cruise home in the International at York

Racing
Halling turfs out rivals
with Juddmonte record

Chris Hawkins
HALLING did the double at York yesterday when following up his victory in the Coral Eclipse by winning the Juddmonte International for the second successive year. With five group one winners in the field this was arguably the race of the season and in kicking aside such high class opposition Halling looked the horse of the season. It is hard to imagine a triumph achieved with more panache. It bore all the elements of a great performance as Halling ran from the front with apparently unshakable joy and quickened off a fast pace to ensure no rival got closer than genuflecting distance. Halling, a five-year-old, clearly loves racing and, along with the other old boys, Cigar, is a wonderful advertisement for keeping horses in training. It is sad that he could not do

himself justice when meeting the American wonder horse on the sand in Dubai in the spring, but it appears that dirt does not suit him and he has now won his last eight races on turf. "Although he trains well on sand, when push comes to shove in a race it seems to come alive on turf," says Simon Crisp, manager of the Godolphin racing enterprise. "One thing's certain, we won't be asking him to race on it again." The Arc de Triomphe is now a possibility as Frankie Dettori (after one of his famous airborne descents in the winner's enclosure) talked of any trip from a mile to a mile and a half being within his horse's capabilities. "I was basically just a passenger today," said Dettori, winning his fourth group race in five days. "I'm blessed to be allowed the thrill of riding a horse like that. He's so good he's got to be one of the best I've ridden - he's more pace than Lammtarra." A measure of Halling's merit, apart from a race re-

York runners and riders with TV form

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Advertisement for Ladbrokes featuring a 'Ladbrokes' logo and text: 'For a bet, Ladbrokes are favourite.' Includes a phone number 0800 524 524.

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Advertisement for 'Tote Ebor Handicap' featuring a table of race results and odds. Includes a 'Results' section and a 'YORK' section with race details.

Soccer

Premiership: Leeds 0, Sheffield Wed 2

Booth adds to comedy of errors

David Hopps

THE Leeds United manager Howard Wilkinson greeted the new season by misquoting Shakespeare — something about escaping “the summer of our discontent” — but winter could prove equally unpalatable if his side continues to fluff their chances. Andy Booth's breakaway goal in injury time had added to Ritchie Humphries' first-half strike for Sheffield Wednesday, who had the hump.

Yezouk cut in up to three months. Deane immediately following; the season was only a game old and already Leeds' strike force looked undermanned. Mark Hateley might have left behind a few inswinging corners, but the veteran avers to a spot of old-fogging, but his weak appeals for a penalty after collapsing under Stefanovic's challenge were waved aside.

Leeds' wing-back system had stalled. Sharp by requiring him to fulfil an infield role but its abandonment midway through the second half, with Palmer pushing forward and the substitute Gray also bringing life on the flanks, gave fresh impetus.

When Bowyer did dare to break down the left and cross, Rush, diving in with Hateley, headed against the bar. Nor was the former Liverpool veteran averse to a spot of old-fogging, but his weak appeals for a penalty after collapsing under Stefanovic's challenge were waved aside.

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Rush job... Sheffield Wednesday's Ian Nolan holds off the veteran Leeds striker last night

Uefa Cup qualifying round, second leg

Celtic 1, FC Kosice 0 (aggregate 1-0)

Cadete earns stripes with late winner

Patrick Glenn

MINUTES after Van Hoojdonk missed a penalty and Frazenica, the Kosice defender, had been ordered off, Jorge Cadete produced the goal which took Celtic into the first round of the Uefa Cup last night. The Portuguese striker slipped Waghorn's pass past Juacka two minutes from the end of an untidy match.

Still, the German might have given Celtic the lead with a ferocious 35-yard free-kick which was deflected by a defender with a head of iron for a corner. The Slovaks had shown in the first leg that they were capable when in possession and some of their through-the-middle play alarmed the crowd, even if many of their moves ended with offside.

First Division: Bolton Wanderers 1, Manchester City 0

Burnden's sigh of relief

Michael Walker

BOLTON's first win since April saw them take an early lead of the marathon 46-game Nationwide League. One goal at Burnden Park last night was enough to see off Manchester City, one of the teams that went down with them in May.

Per Frandsen, one of Bolton's summer signings from Denmark, scored the goal in the 49th minute and though there were numerous other scoring chances no one up front on either side had the composure to take them. City's fans were especially disappointed that none of theirs fell to the brilliant Kavelashvili.

Neutrals were disappointed by the paucity of goals, for both defences looked edgy and in Sellars and Kinkladze both attacks had men with the ability to exploit this.

Only two minutes had gone when Kinkladze's quick free-kick put in Rosler, but the German striker blasted his shot at Branagan. That piece of casual brilliance from Kinkladze was almost matched a few moments later by Sellars. His pass was expertly threaded through to Blake, who squandered the chance with a wild shot.

Earlier, though, Blake was unlucky not to earn a penalty when he turned Symons and lashed the ball home from 20 yards.

Michael Johansen is the other half of this duo, and while it is too early for Bolton supporters to pass judgment, neither player will have upset anyone with their displays last night. Bolton may have got two star turns for the price of one.

City may now step their pursuit of Arsenal's Scotland Under-21 striker Paul Dickov, for whom they have made a £750,000 offer.

Frandsen was the scorer, one half of the Danish duo, designed from FC Copenhagen with a large slice of the money Wanderers received from Celtic for Alan Stubbs. Suddenly it all seemed worthwhile as he twisting away from his Sky Blue challengers and lashed the ball home from 20 yards.

Manchester City manager Brian Clough said he was "pleased" with the result. He said the team had been "very brave" and that he was "proud" of the players.

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Coca-Cola Cup, first round, first leg: Swindon 2, Wolves 0

Soaring Allison's aim is true

Martin Thorpe

THE angry Swindon Town manager Steve McMahon refused to reveal what he said to his players after their 2-0 defeat at Norwich on Saturday. He will hopefully have found kinder words for them after this battling victory over one of the First Division's strongest and most expensive sides.

It must have seemed a long way from Wembley for these two former League Cup winners as the game began in teasing rain that drenched the Wolves fans billeted in the only uncovered stand in the ground. With last night's side costing roughly £6 million, Wolves are a club prepared to put their money where their ambition is. By contrast Swindon spent just £15,000 in the summer, preferring to rely on the momentum of last season's Second Division title win to carry them on upwards.

But despite some early pressure from the visitors, Richards shooting just over the ever-dangerous Roberts heading in the same direction and Thompson nearly catching Talia off his line — Swindon slowly came back. Drysdale saw a shot well saved, Allison in front of goal, just failed to get a touch to Finney's cross; then Horlock shot wide.

Walters, signed on a free transfer in the summer from Southampton, had also beaten the Wolves back-keeper Romano for pace before seeing his cross cleared by Atkins. So when the former Liverpool winger went down the right three minutes from half-time, Wolves knew danger was afoot. And sure enough, Walters before seeing his cross cleared by Atkins.

Results

Table of football results including Premier League, UEFA Cup, and other competitions. Lists teams and scores.

FA CUP PREMIERSHIP

Table of FA Cup Premier League results.

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE

Table of Nationwide League results.

COCA-COLA CUP

Table of Coca-Cola Cup results.

TENNIS

Table of tennis results.

Chess

Table of chess results.

Cricket

Table of cricket results.

Fixtures

Table of upcoming fixtures.

Angry Hamilton 'kept in dark' over Ukraine preparations

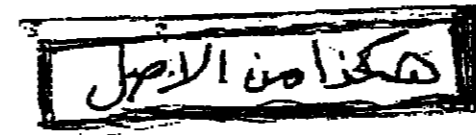
BRYAN HAMILTON, the Northern Ireland manager, has criticised the Ukrainian soccer authorities for keeping him in the dark during the build-up to the World Cup qualifying match between the sides in Belfast next week.

Hamilton is furious that the Irish FA was not informed about a warm-up match Ukraine played against Lithuania in Kiev last week, from which he would be unable to hold tactics in the challenge, was even more culpable a little later. McNamara's low centre from the right was touched across the area and the Dutchman, coming in at the far post, contrived to score his shot wide from only five yards.

Sport in brief

- Badminton: England have been reprimanded by the international federation for taking a weakened squad to the Thomas and Uber Cups.
Snooker: Alex Higgins last night declined to play in the sixth qualifying round of the Thailand Open in Bangkok.
Cricket: Scotland are set to announce a new managerial strategy today following the loss of the Lions assistant coach.
Rugby League: Bradford's Robbie Paul is challenging Kelvin Cunningham for the first St James Super League Player of the Year award to be made on September 3.
Chess: Britain's Julian Hodgson lost from a winning position against Ukraine's world No. 7, Vassily Ivanchuk, in the opening round of the Donner Memorial in Amsterdam.
Motor Sport: Colin McRae, the world rally champion, has been fined £167,000, with £17,000 of it suspended, after running into spectators in a service area during last month's Argentinian Rally.

Teamtalk: The independent news and reports service. 0891 33 77+. Includes a list of football clubs and their league positions.



صباحنا من الامل

The Guardian Wednesday August 21 1996

Cricket Counties defiant on Acfield Report

Mike Selvey on an anti-England feeling at the TCCB summer meeting at Lord's

THE first-class counties balked at the full Acfield Report yesterday, once again setting back the development of the England team by refusing to place national above sectional interests.

As well as accepting only a watered-down version of the Acfield blueprint for the future selection, management and coaching of England teams, the summer meeting of the full Test and County Cricket Board also rejected a proposal of the board's cricket committee that there should be a total ban on overseas players for the seasons 1999 and 2000.

That ban had been suggested to allow a full assessment of the impact on the domestic game of the absence of overseas players. At present there is a moratorium on signing them after the 1998 season.

At the heart of the Acfield Report was its proposal of the resting of players from county matches at the behest of the chairman of England selectors. The counties promised "a sympathetic ear" to such requests without being prepared to relinquish their

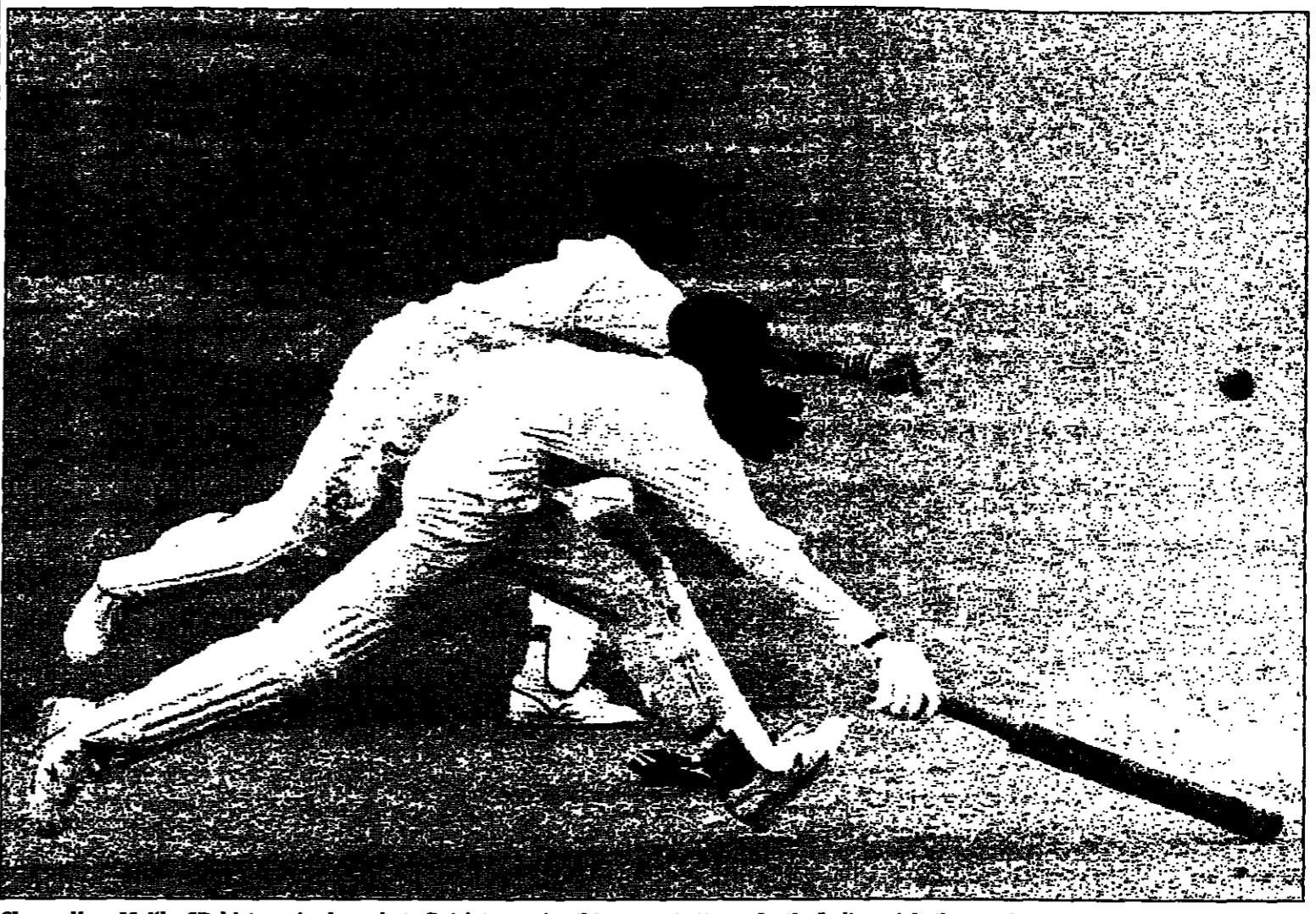
right to decide for themselves what was best for their players.

According to the outgoing TCCB chief executive Alan Smith and his successor Tim Lamb, that refusal is not a huge stumbling block and does not negate the principle of setting up the England Management Committee to deal with all matters relating to England teams. But, said Lamb, the Acfield working party members would have been "disappointed that the recommendations were not accepted lock, stock and barrel".

So, although sympathetic in principle, the counties will retain the right to use players against the wishes of the England chairman if they consider matches to be sufficiently important. In practice it is a small matter but it is indicative of the counties' wish to retain their powers.

So, too, is the rejection of the cricket committee's recommendation to harden up the overseas-signings moratorium into a definite ban. While the committee considered, for example, that the encouragement of other domestic seasons into our own has led

PITCH INVASIONS AS INDIA BEAT PAKISTAN IN UNDER-15 FINAL



Close call... Malik of Pakistan wins by a photo-finish to survive this run-out attempt by the Indian wicketkeeper Chawla

Lombard World Challenge climax marred by unruly scenes and obscene chanting

Crowd arrests at Lord's

Mike Selvey sees a game played in the best spirit come to a deplorable end

AFTER two weeks of wonderfully vibrant cricket the Lombard World Challenge, the Under-15 World Cup, ended with unpalatable crowd scenes at Lord's yesterday. Arrests were made after India beat Pakistan by four wickets in the final.

There were several pitch invasions as the game headed towards a climax in front of some 8,000 noisy spectators, the culprits mostly but not exclusively being Pakistan supporters from the Mound Stand who tried to disrupt the game by parading the stumps. The most startling of these raids, involving several hundred spectators, came after the Indian captain Rasthinder Sodhi had steered his side to within half a dozen runs of victory.

With the disappearance

of the stumps the two young batsmen Sodhi and Vivek Mahajan retreated to the pavilion, and shortly after play resumed Mahajan flicked the winning run to square leg. This was the signal for further mayhem, with rival factions clashing in front of the pavilion.

The Indian team, celebrating on their balcony, were greeted with obscene chants. It was a sad way for the match to end, for it had been a worthy contest, fought in the best spirit with wrist and skill, spin and not a batting helmet in sight all day.

India had upset the apparent favourite in a World Cup final on this ground and yesterday they won because in the end they kept their cool after the favourites had failed to post a defensible total. In reply to Pakistan's innings of 222

for seven, India lost both openers within the first eight overs and a further two batsmen shortly after the tea interval, taken after 35 overs of the innings, in reaching 118.

It was Sodhi, who had steered them through in their semi-final against South Africa, who came to India's rescue again. He made an unbeaten 82 from 138 balls. Earlier he had taken three for 34 with his seamers, so it was a proper captain's day and it doubled his smile as he lifted the trophy on the balcony of the pavilion.

Pakistan will be disappointed, for there is some pedigree in the side. Baid Khan is the son of the mighty Majid, with a scrappy pair of pads and a sunbat to match, he would be a ringer. The captain Faisal Iqbal can claim Javed Miandad as an uncle, so he would not be short of a trick or two.

And no one who remembers Abdul Qadir's hand-to-hand fizz of the ball, followed by the stiff-legged strut to the crease and his whirling action, could fail

Lewis must bounce back off firm and bare track

Paul Weaver at The Oval

TEST selectors do not really want the world to think they are poty, whatever signals they give to the contrary. Chris Lewis has had them wiping cartons of free-range off their faces since his England introduction six years ago but yesterday there was a clear message that the great enigma must discover a variation consistency.

David Lloyd, the England coach, loves to communicate his febrile enthusiasm for the game by sticking up various messages and mottoes in the dressing-room and the writing on the wall could scarcely be clearer for the Surrey all-rounder. If he is a victim of his own rigidity, he has only himself to blame.

Lloyd thought carefully about his words, like someone with a mouthful of herring feeling for bones, and then said: "I haven't had that much to do with Chris but I've seen him like a pro."

"He was our best bowler against India. I thought he was terrific. Then he got in-

jured and he had an off-game when he came back. I'm not for chopping and changing and stamping but there will come a limit, not just with Lewis but with everyone. Chris has produced some good performances and some indifferent ones which he's got to cut out."

If a fast bowler is left out tomorrow it is still likely to be Lewis but the Surrey man has a better chance of playing than Robert Croft, Glamorgan's engaging off-spinning all-rounder, who is in line for his first cap.

Lloyd said yesterday: "It won't turn here." Then he quickly added: "But there is still a chance we might play both spinners." If England do opt for a solitary twirler, it is likely to be the Essex leg-spinner Ian Salisbury.

Croft said yesterday: "When David Lloyd phoned me up on Sunday I was very surprised. I had resigned myself to the Glamorgan cause."

He paid tribute to Tom Cartwright, the old Warwickshire and England seamer of the 1960s who is now coaching at Glamorgan. "Tom has helped me a lot, particularly with my mental approach to the game. "But I'm one of those people who talks to everyone. I talk to umpires, for example. Alan Jones has given me one or two pointers about my run-up. I have also changed my grip recently, which allows me to impart more spin."

Lloyd has so much enthusiasm he even communicates it to the opposition. He added yesterday: "The pitch is white, rock-hard and dry. It is very firm and bare. I don't think Waqar Younis will be displeased with that surface — and this is his home ground, remember."

Waqar scarcely needs a gee-up. The scourge of England at Lord's looked almost as lethargic as Lewis at Leeds but his nine wickets against Essex this week suggests he is back to his hostile best.

Meanwhile the grassy Oval outfield was the talking point yesterday: it looked so verdant that it might have been laid out for an April pipe-smoker and the Warwickshire and England seamer of the 1960s who is now coaching at Glamorgan. "Tom has helped

Motor Racing

Williams balk at rule changes

Alan Henry

MAJOR changes to the Formula One that include holding races over two days instead of three and having the teams make a long-term commitment to the world championship were announced by the sport's governing body yesterday.

These new rules are part of a package introduced by Fia as part of a renewal of the Concorde agreement, the protocol governing Formula One. The new agreement will run from 1997 to 2001 but has not yet been agreed by Williams, Tyrrell and McLaren.

The last two have declined to sign the new deal while Frank Williams is understood to have signed initially but subsequently to have withdrawn his consent.

It seems these three teams have not signed because they are not satisfied with the financial aspects. Fia has decided to scrap the prize-

money scale and replace it with a system for dividing up television income.

The absence of these teams could cause an awkward political situation for Fia, although they would not be barred from competing in the world championship next season, they would almost certainly be prevented from having any influence in the rule-making process on the Formula One commission.

According to the statement issued yesterday, those eight teams who have actually signed the Concorde agreement are jointly bound to produce at least 20 cars for each world championship. This raises the possibility of teams such as Benetton, Ferrari and Jordan running three cars if they could raise the finance.

The teams must agree to stay in Formula One until 2001, the other major change being the scrapping of Friday practice. There will be an increase in the maximum number of races from 16 to 17.

Athletics

Christie delays sprint finish

Duncan Mackay on official reservations over the ageing champion's plans to run on

INFORM CHRISTIE'S decision to delay his retirement until after the summer's European Cup in Munich has not been greeted with the unqualified joy he might have expected by officials at the British Athletic Federation.

Malcolm Arnold, the chief coach, has said he has reservations about the former Olympic and world 100m champion still competing in his 37th year. "The youngsters will be set back," said Arnold. "Linford's just a giant presence and they should be set free."

Christie said he wanted to run in the European Cup as a thank-you to Hans Müller-Wolfart, the Munich-based doctor who has been treating him since 1992. But can he be believed when he says he will spend the winter in Australia on a tough training regime for just two races in June?

The temptations of the lucrative European grand prix circuit and the world championships in Athens will surely prove too much for a man who has devoted the last 10 years to the sport. "He loves the sport and is finding it hard to let go," said Arnold.

Two years ago Christie said he would know when it was time to hang up his spikes. "You see the young fighters coming up, sparring partners start to hurt you, pretty soon someone punches you flat out in the face and you think, 'why am I doing this? I'm not going out like that,'" he said.

But he seems to be falling into the very trap he was so confident of avoiding. He has not won on the grand prix circuit this summer and sprinters once in awe of him are now beating him easily.

"I would like him to go out in a dignified fashion," said Arnold. "We've seen the best of him. Unless he's found the elixir of youth he can't beat

the ageing process."

Christie told Arnold during the Olympics that he would be available for the European Cup but the coach did not believe him. "I treated the comment with the seriousness it deserved," he said.

The sport's marketing agents had been hyping up the match against an International Select at Gateshead as Christie's last appearance in a British vest. "It was my last international in Britain," he said. "I will run the European Cup, then that's it."

The British captain has a fantastic record in the competition. He has never been beaten in it and in Madrid earlier this year won the 100m and 200m to take his number of titles to 11.

While he has lost his position at the pinnacle of world sprinting, he remains head and shoulders above any European. "I could probably run until I was 40 and still win the European Cup," Christie said.

The bells apparent to Christie have always withered on the vine in his shade. Christie, though, has high hopes for Ian Mackie, who finished second to the Olympic 100m champion Donovan Bailey at Gateshead, and plans to take him to Australia to train.

But, if no European emerges to challenge Christie next year, his thoughts will surely turn to the 1998 European championships in Budapest and a record fourth 100m title. At this rate Frank Sinatra will have nothing on Christie.



Christie... falling into trap

Drug cheats face direct IAAF bans

ATLETES found guilty of drug abuse in the future may be suspended directly by the International Amateur Athletic Federation.

The cases of two banned athletes cleared domestically to compete in the Atlanta Olympics have prompted the IAAF to consider stripping national federations of their powers to punish drug cheats.

The Australian sprinter Dean Capobianco and the Italian high jumper Antonella Bevilacqua had failed drug tests before the Games but were cleared on appeal to their respective national bodies, as allowed under current IAAF rules.

However Istvan Gyulai, the IAAF's general secretary, said yesterday that the sport's world ruling body would now consider amending its rules to centralise the process.

"When we face the Capobianco case in Atlanta we came to the conclusion our rules would probably have to be amended," said Gyulai, in Sydney for the world junior championships. "If necessary this will mean the IAAF assuming the right to suspend athletes."

The IAAF declined to bar Capobianco and Bevilacqua from the Olympics because they feared possible court action. Instead the cases were referred to the International Olympic Committee's Court of Arbitration for Sport.

Gyulai described the IAAF's case as watertight against Capobianco, who faces a four-year ban after testing positive for the steroid stanozolol. But Gyulai added the IAAF would abide by the CAS decision, which is expected in Monte Carlo next month.

Bevilacqua faces a three-month suspension for twice testing positive for the stimulant ephedrine.

Rugby League

Salford angry at receiving nothing for their title deeds

Paul Fitzpatrick

SALFORD REDS are angry that they will receive no prize-money for winning the First Division championship, a situation described as "totally unfair" by their chairman John Wilkinson.

The Lancashire club had expected a similar amount to the Centenary First Division championship. The Super League has only just announced its prize-money and, along with the winners of the Second Division, Salford will get nothing while

the Super League champions collect £50,000.

"Our budgets were based on at least £30,000 again being the prize-money, with the Centenary championship being effectively a meaningless championship," Wilkinson said.

"We promised our players a combined £15,000 incentive for winning the [First Division] championship, which they have done in style, but this is a totally unjust and outrageous decision."

"Perhaps if we had committed like St Helens action would have been taken. We would not rock the boat publicly

despite being overlooked for an original Super League place but we cannot stay silent on this issue."

Salford are also annoyed at being told there is no new trophy available for the First Division title. "We were told we could keep the old trophy after winning the Centenary championship. But now the League has decided there will not be a new cup. It is shameful and totally amateurish," said Wilkinson.

The League's chief executive Maurice Lindsay has warned union clubs about the dangers of signing league players on short-term contracts.

Paralympics

Dehydrated Payton spends night in clinic after second gold

Richard Rodden in Atlanta

BITAIN are now lying in fourth position in the medal table but remain hopeful of at least equaling the third achieved at the 1992 Barcelona Games. The British Paralympic Association president Adrian Whetton said: "The squad is gelling together well and we are very confident."

The 1992 tally was 40 gold, 47 silver and 41 bronze, and most of the Atlanta finals have still to be contested. So far Britain

have taken 11 gold, 13 silver and 11 bronze.

A second track gold for Livingston's Stephen Payton, who had won the 400 metres in world-record time, came in bizarre circumstances. Having won the 100m T37 final in 11.90sec, he was taken for a drug test at 7:50pm.

The 19-year-old, who has cerebral palsy, went to the Poly Clinic and, although he was allowed to sleep, did not emerge until he had produced a sample — at seven o'clock the following morning.

Due to the humidity ath-

letes have to take huge amounts of water on board — a litre an hour — diluting the urine and producing samples that are too weak.

Tanni Grey won the 600m T52 final, her first gold of the Games, in a world record 1m 55.12sec, bettering her Barcelona time by 2.53sec. The American Leann Shannon, who beat Grey in the 100m final, was second. T52 is the second-least disabled category of the four wheelchair events.

It was Britain's third-world record of the Games and Grey followed it by producing a fourth in the heats

of the T52 200m with a time of 29.76s.

A silver also went to Leamington's Bob Matthews in the B1 (blind) 1500 metres with a time of 4min 12.07sec.

The British men's basketball team, the European champions, went down to an unexpected 54-47 defeat at the hands of Spain. With their opening two wins now wiped out by two defeats, their chances of landing the silver behind the United States now look bleak. The women slipped to their third defeat, 31-46 against Japan.

SportsGuardian

TCCB HANDS OUT RECORD PUNISHMENT TO SUSSEX PLAYER

Giddins banned until 1998

England A bowler found guilty of taking cocaine

Mike Selvey

ED GIDDINS, the Sussex and England A pace bowler, has been suspended from first-class cricket until April 1, 1998, for taking cocaine. The Test and County Cricket Board has also terminated his registration.

Giddins, who has 14 days to appeal, tested positive for the drug after a random test was carried out during Sussex's championship match against Kent at Tunbridge Wells in late May. A second test also proved to be positive.

The penalty was imposed by the discipline committee of the TCCB under the chairmanship of Gerard Elias QC. A board statement said it had found three charges proven: of having a prohibited substance in a urine sample; of knowingly using a prohibited substance; and, by virtue of so doing, of bringing the game into disrepute.

The board's message was unequivocal — that "cricket, its players and administrators, would not tolerate in its ranks those who indulge in the use of a prohibited drug. The committee was sure the public would rightly demand nothing less".

The committee took into account the fact that cocaine is regarded by law as a Class A drug, the most serious grouping, and, although it found no evidence that Giddins's use of the drug was anything other than a one-off, it rejected his claim that the taking of it had been inadvertent.

Giddins, represented by the Cricketers' Association lawyer Lawrence Duffman and the Sussex secretary Nigel Bett, attended a disciplinary hearing on Monday and was back at Lord's for 20 minutes to hear the verdict yesterday. "I think he was speechless. I don't think there was a reaction," said Bett. Shortly afterwards Giddins left the board's offices through a side door to be driven away by a girlfriend. "I've absolutely nothing to say," he said. "I wish I could."

It certainly puts on hold, and could have terminated, a promising career. The 25-

year-old was held in sufficient esteem to have toured Pakistan with England A last winter and, according to Bett, is a "quality player".

Whether he can play club or grade cricket in the future remains something of a grey area; other national cricket boards will be advised of the decision and the TCCB would hope for support from them. Bett's opinion is that the Sussex committee would support the ban although Giddins's future with the county has yet to be discussed.

"It's been in the background all the time. We will miss Ed but it will relieve pressures on a lot of people in the side. It was bound to have had an effect. He has probably just been a misguided lad but I think it is a fair verdict."

Drugs have yet to prove a problem in cricket and Giddins is only the second professional in England to be found guilty of an offence. In 1986 Ian Botham was suspended for two months following newspaper admissions that he had smoked cannabis.

More recently Richard Stemp, the Yorkshire spinner then with Worcestershire, tested positive for a banned stimulant but the charge was dropped after his explanation, supported by affidavit, that a drink had been spiked was accepted.

Giddins's defence is believed to have been along similar lines, suggesting that after drinking a substantial quantity of beer he picked up the wrong glass. However, taking cocaine in liquid form would have been a highly unusual, not to say less effective, method of using an expensive drug.

In sentencing Giddins the committee resisted the temptation towards leniency for a first-time offender whose use of the drug was not geared to gaining an unfair advantage on the pitch while recognising the need to punish someone who had compromised his position as a role model for children.

The suggestion that Giddins be given counselling was ruled out by the committee although it may be considered for future offenders. The Olympic guidelines for cocaine abuse involve two- to four-year suspensions and this 20-month sentence is more in step with that.

There are those who suggest that cricket, by virtue of its long-winded nature, is not a sport in which players can gain an advantage from the use of banned substances, but that is nonsense. Cocaine is "the most reinforcing of all psycho-active drugs", according to the Martindale Pharmacopoeia, and it helps the user to stay awake while stimulating the heartbeat.



Happier times... Ed Giddins on his way to three for 52 for England A against The Rest in April

TONY MARSHALL

Cocaine taken the night before a game, as Giddins suggested, would actually lead to fatigue the following day. But it is precisely because cricket is a lengthy affair, requiring concentration, that a drug such as cocaine could be taken to advantage during breaks.

The ponderous manner in which the whole investigation has been conducted has also brought into focus the need for a swifter disciplinary procedure. Certainly 2½ months is too long for this to have been hanging around.

The Board will now almost certainly be considering whether a player who tests positive should be allowed to continue playing while the case is pending. Soccer has already taken a lead from athletics in that regard. Last year, in what was regarded as a responsible action, Leyton Orient suspended Roger Stanislaus as soon as they received confirmation of him testing positive for cocaine use. He was subsequently banned for a year by the FA and sacked by the club.

Next season the FA will have the power to suspend players themselves. Although the verdict against Giddins is admirably stringent, cricket is still sending out the wrong message.

Giddins has taken 33 wickets since the offence, including six for 47 and match figures of eight for 123 against Yorkshire earlier this month. His case should have been brought to book quicker and he ought not to have been playing in the interim.

Lovely boys score with the French



Vincent Hanna

WHEN I answered the doorbell Mme Maraud, from the pharmacy, fixed me with a wistful smile. "We must discuss our strategy, your wife says it will help you," she said. Nervously I agreed and set her down in the garden.

"Does anyone know," I whispered round the kitchen door, "what she's on about?" The sniggering told me all. I had again been entered for the mixed-doubles tennis tournament, and with the ferocious Céline Maraud.

We had to play the Rochets, who have won in the last two years, mostly because Alphonse is a local hero and no one wants to beat him. A lean, sinewy man in his sixties, he has the sort of eyes you can see squinting into the desert sun. Besides he has a tin leg. "Given for La France," people murmur.

Mme Maraud had no sympathy. "No frills stuff, just let me play the shots, you stand at the net." The match was a fiasco. Alphonse and I chatted while our partners exchanged crisp forehands. "Ave you see the goal of Beckham?" he asked during a long rally. "I see it many times."

The ball popped in my direction. "Hit him with it," hissed Mme Maraud. I volleyed it at the umpire. There was much applause. "Look Céline," I said at the change-over. "I cannot bring myself to assault a patriot of France who watches Match of the Day." "Stupid fool," she said. We lost 6-3.

In truth I no longer cared. Alphonse, his brother-in-law from Tours and my neighbours just in from Nantes sat under the oak tree and marvelled at the change in local perceptions. It is a time of renaissance for French football. Their greatest club, Marseille was stripped of the European Cup in 1993, then relegated, because of financial scandals. This month they are back and humming and, at a time when the national side is on the up, French players are in the news and preparations (under the great Michel Platini) are in hand for the World Cup in 1998.

Maybe it was because the French League did not play on Saturday. Perhaps they are waiting for Serie A and the Bundesliga to get going. But for the moment the French are preoccupied with celebrating English football. On Saturday L'Equipe, which sets standards for most European sports papers, had a full page on Cannes. Maitre du Jeu. On Monday there he was again in full colour on the front page and on the cover of four national magazines. On Sunday nights my neighbours are glued to the cable station Canal + which features all the goals from the Premiership. And just listen to this: English football has had its disappointments, too long eclipsed by the proud and powerful Italians, but its prodigious vitality, its unflinching generosity, its profound authenticity continue to touch the French public, drawn to those who never cheat in sport.

This, believe it or not, is yesterday's editorial in France Football, the leading soccer magazine, which was devoted to stories on the lives of their emigrés in the Premiership. The writing resounds with a breathless enthusiasm that seems almost English.

So Frank Leboeuf, of Chelsea, says: "I love the chants. I feel the hairs on my neck stand up when I come on the pitch. I don't think I know my name. He was a man from another planet. Now in training he taps me on the shoulder and calls me 'lovely boy'. Every time it wins my heart."

There are lots of post-cards home from the other boys. Here is Patrick Vieira. "They said that Highbury is fabulous, fantastic. They were right. Highbury is truly a way of life."

My friends were puzzled by references to food. "Is it compulsory, in English football, to eat Indian food?" asked Alphonse. "Only at Arsenal," I explained. And all this even before Arsène Wenger has arrived. Hoovering over all its Cantona, who never dominated the game in his native land but in whom, in exile, every Frenchman takes much pride; or as they say it: "Cantona toujours et encore Cantona, à la folie."

Anyway, after several bottles of Touraine Mesland we paced out 52 metres in the back garden and hit shots, à la Beckham, for half an hour. Even Alphonse. None of them came close.

"Silly old show-off," said Mme Maraud. "You know he lost his leg when he fell into a hay-baler."

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Dealing with the positives

A fairly clean bill of health for cricket

BEFORE 1988 every sport could police itself and, not surprisingly, very few cases emerged of sportsmen failing drug tests. Even scarcer was the public disclosure of such offenders' names, and there was a good deal of whispering before the Sports Council stepped in and organised a proper programme of independent drug testing. Since then cricket has been one of the more drug-free sports. There have been only five positive tests in eight years — one for amphetamines, another (the last previous case in 1992-93) for a narcotic substance. No action was taken in either case. The other cases were before 1990. The sports with the worst record in this respect have been powerlifting and weightlifting, with a combined 188 failures from an all-sport total of 1,198 since 1988.

John Duncan

IAAF's positive action, p15

SOCCER
A SLOW starter but increasingly vigilant because of the money now in the game, the Football Association takes a lenient, habituation view of a first offence and a non-of-records approach after that. Little performance-enhancing evidence, mainly social usage; half of last year's failures were for cannabis. Roger Stanislaus's cocaine ban was intended as a warning to the rest, with testing stepped up this year at FA's expense. Eight failures last year; 28 since 1988.

ATHLETICS
THE most extensive network of testing of any sport, sophisticated and unpredictably random, an exceptionally hard system to break for even the most determined cheat. Only recently has the problem been brought under control. In the early '80s drug-taking was rife in Britain and the Sports Council stepped in and organised a proper programme of independent drug testing. Since then cricket has been one of the more drug-free sports. There have been only five positive tests in eight years — one for amphetamines, another (the last previous case in 1992-93) for a narcotic substance. No action was taken in either case. The other cases were before 1990. The sports with the worst record in this respect have been powerlifting and weightlifting, with a combined 188 failures from an all-sport total of 1,198 since 1988.

RUGBY LEAGUE
HAS reputedly had the biggest problem of the team sports, historically with amphetamines though its highest failure rate has been among stimulants. Has tightened up considerably in the past five years from a time when drugs were a barely disguised commonplace. Punishments now harsh — a two-year ban last year for steroid abuse. Thirty-five failures since 1988; seven last year.

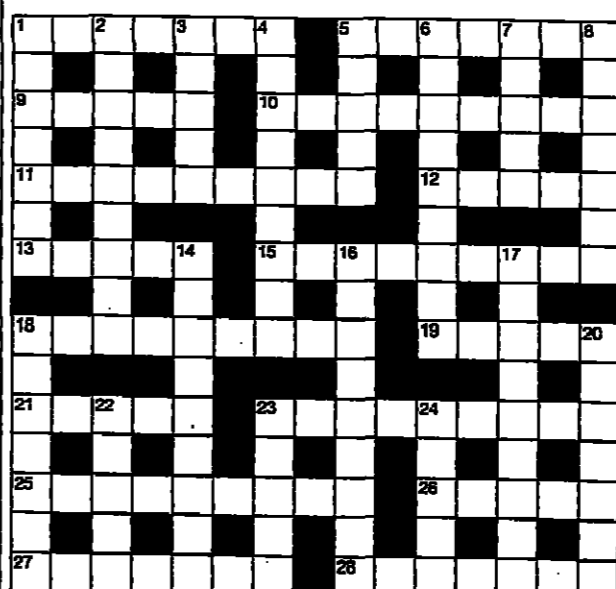
RUGBY UNION
NEVER considered to have the same scale of problem as the professional code, but since 1988 the game has stepped up its testing programme in accordance with Sports Council drives. That is reflected in the drop in their failure rates. Eleven failures since 1988; only two last year, both for stimulants (pseudoephedrine), one attracting a warning only, the other a four-Saturday ban.

But here's something closer to the knuckle: shopping trolley film-making. Its newest exponent is Nottingham-based Shane Meadows, whose hour-long film Smalltime is proving to be one of the big hits of the Edinburgh Festival — on a budget of £5,000.

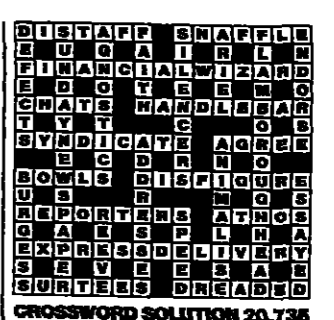
Interviewed Ramsey G2 page 12

Guardian Crossword No 20,737

Set by Araucaria



- Across**
- 1 Mail to fight with? (4-3)
 - 5 Rainproof pudding to lay on? (7)
 - 9 Primate builds the wall in Paris (5)
 - 10 Mail to fight with? (5-3)
 - 11 Quate regulations ordering something bizarre (9)
 - 12 Monarch who must go straight? (5)
 - 13 What sounds and what smells one goes in for? (5)
 - 15 Sailor's inclination to pursue gold like a sponge (5)
 - 18 Make a melodrama out of a temperance commercial featuring a nymph and a snake (9)
 - 19 One should go shares with one's wife (5)
 - 21 Broadcaster who might be 3 (5)
 - 23 Wasting away? Test can be arranged (8)
- Down**
- 25 Information in painting in a silver land (8)
 - 26 Indication of satisfaction at honour for wizardry (5)
 - 27 Listener at home isn't joking (7)
 - 28 16 in the theatre (7)
- 14** Sticking it out to the last, cure an ill (8)
- 16** Team on top of table may have a lot of cups (9)
- 17** Intercourse, as it were, extending 10 metres (9)
- 18** Unwilling guest of a lot of people for a long time? (7)
- 20** Lady goes round at church: is she making a plot? (7)
- 22** Clown to the queen goes to the stakes (5)
- 23** It is not corruption (5)
- 24** Bad-mouthed form of 21? (5)
- Solution tomorrow**



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